Jury empaneled for Atalig trial. PAGE 2
Finance redacts credit card info from original documents. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 161

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY AUGUST 14, 2020 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC workers.
KRIZEL TUAZON

IPI, HANMI to repatriate CWs

» IPI believes CNMI tourism not to begin until May 2021
» HANMI eyes repatriation by mid- to late September

FERDIE DE LA TORRE and JUSTINE NAUTA
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTERS

With may hotels and Saipan's lone casino remaining closed and with zero tourists entering the CNMI, the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC are now working on repatriating hundreds of foreign workers back to their home countries.

See IPI on Page 4

Up to $20M in PUA to be released today

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor is expected to release today up to $20 million worth of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

At the radio press briefing yesterday, the governor also said that the administration is getting more people to help the department process

See PUA on Page 4

Both Guam top leaders test positive

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A day after Guam's Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero tested positive for COVID-19 last Tuesday night, Guam's Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio also tested positive for the coronavirus last Wednesday.

In a statement Tenorio's office released Wednesday night, he said that he initially tested negative for the virus. However, after a few days,

See BOTH on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Aug. 13, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	449	28	477
Recovered	325	18	343
Active	101	28	129
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,822

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	49	0	49
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			12,301**

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt.*

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

House OKs FY21 budget ceiling in midst of salary cap concerns

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

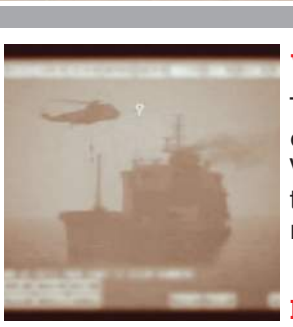
In a vote of 11-9, House Bill 21-124, or the Appropriations and Budget Authority Act of 2021, passed the House of Representatives yesterday.

H.B. 21-124 appropriates local funds for the operations and activities of the CNMI government, its agencies, instrumentalities, independent agencies and political subdivisions, and provides authority for government corporations for fiscal year 2021 start-

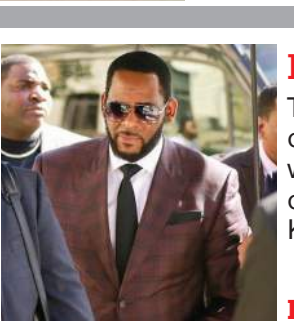
See HOUSE on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Pad Thai at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai serves Thai meals from various food choices below $9.
PAGE 14



WORLD
The United Nations chief says the COVID-19 pandemic threatens peace and risks new conflicts.
PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE
Three men are accused of threatening women who have accused R&B singer R. Kelly of abuse.
PAGE 23

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Jury empaneled for Atalig trial

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona finished putting together yesterday the jury that will decide the fate of Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, who are on trial on corruption charges.

Saipan Tribune learned that Manglona completed the jury selection late yesterday afternoon.

Twelve jurors and four alternates, for a total of 16, were selected.

The parties are expected to make their opening statements today, Friday, at 9am when the trial resumes.

As this developed, Efraim Atalig is questioning why the U.S. government is quashing his subpoenas on the Office of the Public Auditor and the Division of Revenue and Taxation when the two agencies do not object to it.

In his opposition Wednesday to the motion to quash the subpoenas, Efraim Atalig, through counsel David G. Banes, said that OPA and

Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Revenue and Taxation are not complaining that complying with the subpoenas would be time-consuming or oppressive, which means the U.S. government has no standing to move to quash the subpoenas, and should not be allowed to use the motion to force Efraim Atalig to reveal his trial strategy.

Efraim Atalig wants OPA and Revenue and Taxation to produce certain evidence for the trial.

The prosecution filed Monday and Tuesday motions to quash the defendants' subpoenas, which seeks the personnel records of Travis Hurst, Edward R. Cabrera, and Juan Santos, who participated in the investigation of this case and may testify as witnesses for the U.S. government.

Manglona will hear the motions today, Friday, at 3:30pm.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric S. O'Malley said the OAG and OPA have already produced all relevant evidence requested by the defendants' subpoena to the U.S. government and any responsive material has been provided during the ordinary course of discovery.

O'Malley's co-counsel in this case is assistant U.S. attorney Garth R. Backe, who said compliance with the subpoenas would be unreasonable and oppressive, and an unwarranted invasion of privacy—a direct violation of CNMI law.

The charges against Efraim and Evelyn Atalig involve at least eight trips taken by the couple at different times in 2018 to Guam, Palau, the U.S. mainland, South Korea, and Saipan.

The Ataligs are being charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and theft from program receiving federal funds, wire fraud, and theft from program receiving federal funds. Both are also charged separately with false statement.

NEW at the ARC CAFÉ !
Mochi Donuts
Crispy on the outside.
Mochi-Mushy texture on the inside.
$2.00 each
ASSORTED SET BOX OF 6
$9.00
Chocolate | Strawberry | Matcha | Sugar
Coffee Caramel | Honey Lemon
ASSORTED SET BOX OF 12
$18.00
NEW! Ube | Cookies & Cream | Mint Chocolate | Earl Gray Tea
Chocolate | Strawberry | Matcha | Honey Lemon
Coffee Caramel | Powdered Sugar (2) | Cinnamon Sugar
ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
Available Friday, Saturday & Sunday Only
ADVANCE ORDER REQUIRED. PLEASE CALL US AT (670) 322-1234.

UPON OFFICE OF GOVERNOR'S LEGAL COUNSEL'S 'FRIENDLY ADVICE'

Finance redacts credit card info from original documents

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Some details of documents outlining the governor's purchases and reimbursements were intentionally obscured at the advice of Office of the Governor legal counsel Gilbert J. Birnbrich, it was learned during the continuation of a House of Representatives committee's review of the governor's expenses.

Speaking before the House Special Committee for Fiscal Review of Executive Expenditures yesterday, Birnbrich stated that he reached out to Department of Finance's director of Administrative Services Margaret Bertha Torres in June 2019, and advised her to make the redaction, after learning from "somebody" in the Office of the Governor that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' financial information had been released to the public.

"That's what prompted me to communicate with director Torres, in my capacity as attorney for the governor and Office of the Governor, to protect their interests, and also just in a generalized wish to have Executive Branch officials follow the law," he said.

The special committee hit a roadblock in their review of the governor's purchases and reimbursements last Tuesday, after learning of the redactions made to original documents being held by Finance. Information redacted include Social Security numbers, bank account numbers, and credit card numbers, in their entirety.

Birnbrich

Birnbrich said that he advised the Finance director, through a phone call, that under the constitution and the Open Government Act, personal identifiers regarding financial information, such as bank account and social security numbers, or information often used by people to commit identity theft and fraud, should be redacted.

The redaction was made in July, prior to the minority bloc's Open Government Act request on the same documents in December.

Birnbrich also clarified that the governor did not instruct him to contact Finance and direct it to redact the records or to direct Finance to physically alter the original records.

Margaret Bertha Torres also disclosed that on June 17, they have received an OGA request from a citizen on the governor's travels and reimbursements, among others, with the requestor having paid $913.50, based on an official cash receipt made last July 9, 2019, for the documents. At $.50 a page, the requester was provided 1,827 pages worth of documents.

The Finance director also stressed that the documents, which were thereafter released by a news outlet, was only given to that one requester.

As to the redacted information, Margaret Bertha Torres said that she is "the one that instructed the staff to redact it from the original."

She also clarified that Birnbrich did not ask her to redact from the original documents, and it was her own decision, saying it was because at the time, they had the Office of the Public Auditor, the House minority bloc, and the Legislature asking for the same documents.

The Finance director added that they have done no redaction to any documents previously requested under the OGA.

According to committee chair Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), Birnbrich's advice caused confusion at Finance, where they ended up redacting items that they are not supposed to, such as all numbers of the credit cards, from the original documents.

"All these information are pretty much gone from the face of the Earth because now, we don't know what's going on. …My concern is when any counsel advises, especially the Department of Finance, to hide certain things. The last four digits for me is not a personal ID. Now, we're getting this road bump, I am not sure where to go," Yumul added.

'A friendly advice'

Birnbrich referred to his communication with the Finance director as "friendly advice."

According to him, he would sometimes give advice to other Executive Branch officials, but would also remind them that their legal counsel is the Office of the Attorney General, and that the OAG's advice will override Birnbrich's and will be binding on the departments.

"It usually is what I would call friendly advice, as a lawyer. …Every once in a while, I'll go out, especially if the Office of the Attorney General is not providing the service sometimes they should be, I will just give them [Executive Branch officials] what I call a friendly advice," he said.

When vice speaker Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) asked if this is common practice, Birnbrich replied, "it's not something that happens all the time."

The Department of Finance is not a client of Birnbrich, and its official counsel is the Office of the Attorney General.

"What I'm doing is not really that different. In fact, I would say it's the same [as] what you would do in private practice. If you feel somebody is infringing on your client, you write a letter to that person saying why you think under the law, they shouldn't do what they're doing. You're advocating for your client. You tell them what that situation was about," he said.

When asked after if he agrees that the interest of the governor may be different from the interest of the Department of Finance, Birnbrich said, "I would agree that sometimes, they are not the same."

The special committee will be on recess, and will meet again on Monday, Aug. 17, for Department of Finance Secretary David Atalig's testimony.

Reburial of remains found at Surfrider

The CNMI Historic Preservation Office, in partnership with Triple J Saipan, Inc., will hold the reinterment of 36 ancestral remains in the village of Araiao, Saipan located on the grounds of the Surfrider Resort Hotel.

The reburial will commence with a formal departure of the remains from the CNMI State Historic Preservation Office at 8:30am today, Aug. 14, 2020, and will be laid to rest on the grounds of the Surfrider Resort Hotel. The event is open for public attendance. ***(PR)***

SAFETY TIPS
Never tamper the LPG cylinder valve / try not to extract gas from it or other than for it's intended purpose.
When moving the LPG cylinder, lift by the shroud.
You can also roll it on it's foot-ring.
LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

Have Medicaid Dental Insurance?
- We would love to see you! No long waits, and Walk-ins always welcome. **Kind & Gentle Team!**
- We treat our patients like family. Join us for a cup of coffee today. Best AirCon and free Wi-Fi!
- **Hawaii Dental Service (HDS), StayWell, TakeCare, CIGNA & Calvos insurances also accepted!**

AWARD-WINNING DENTISTS
DR. NELSON KRUM
DR. RICHARD ARBUCKLE
Paradise Dental Spa
Middle Road, Gualo Rai
234-4040
paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com
www.paradisedentalspa.com

McTERI® DELUXE Extra Value Meal®
Available for a limited time only.
Order in the App, pass the line with a tap
Three easy steps to order through the McDonald's App
Download the McDonald's App GET IT ON Google Play Download on the App Store
Order on your time
Use our App to pick out your favorite McDonald's items a la carte or make a meal.
Pay
Pay using any major payment card. Your card will not be charged until you check in.
Pick up on your terms
Check in at any participating McDonald's restaurant to pick up your meal however you want—get your food brought to you Curbside, avoid the line Inside the Restaurant or grab it in the Drive Thru.
MOBILE ORDER & PAY
STORE HOURS: MIDDLE ROAD STORE - 6:30AM TO 10:00PM DAILY • GARAPAN BEACH ROAD - 6:30AM TO 12:00MIDNIGHT DAILY
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel: 235-8761 • Fax: 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

Man gets 6 months in prison for kicking 11-year-old girl

PATHWAY PROJECT
Workers of Soudelor Corp. fix the concrete picnic tables and chairs along the Gov. Froilan C .Tenorio Beach Road Pathway as part of a project of the Saipan Mayor's Office, in collaboration with non-profit group 500 Sails. The project is expected to be done by Aug. 30. The concrete benches and tables were damaged during Super Typhoon Yutu.
KRIZEL TUAZON

A 20-year-old man accused of kicking an 11-year-old girl in the face last June pleaded guilty yesterday in the Superior Court and was sentenced to six months in prison.

Rikson Bisanen pleaded guilty to assault and battery (domestic violence) as part of a plea deal.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Bisanen to 12 months' imprisonment, all suspended except for six months, to be served day for day, without the possibility of probation, parole, early release, work release, weekend release, or any other similar program.

After completing the prison term, the defendant will be placed on probation for two years.

During his probation, Bisanen will be required, among other terms, to perform 500 hours of community service, pay $25 in court costs, and $120 in probation fee per year.

Camacho said a copy of the judgment and commitment order shall be provided to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security-Immigration and Custom Enforcement.

Bisanen is a native of the Federated States of Micronesia.

According to the plea deal, Bisanen kicked the girl last June 8on Saipan. Police detective Kevin R. Maratita stated in his report that a police officer responded to a reported assault and battery call at an apartment complex in Sadog Tasi. The officer observed swelling on the left eye of the girl. The girl could not walk straight due to pain on the left side of her body. She was brought to the hospital.

A witness said Bisanen kicked the girl on the left side of her body. The girl fell to the floor and Bisanen kept kicking her about four more times. Bisanen then allegedly took a dust pan and hit the girl once. The girl sought help from a family member. Bisanen was then arrested that same day.

Assistant attorney general Samantha Vickery appeared as counsel for the government. Assistant public defender Karie Comstock served as counsel for Bisanen.

IPI

From Page 1

HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh said they are still trying to obtain the overall total of foreign workers they need to send home, but confirms that there are less than 800 in all. Additionally, these workers won't go on a one-shot flight, but HANMI is still communicating and coordinating with airlines at the moment. She said HANMI is planning to send affected workers by mid- to late September.

Cavanagh

As for the cost of how to fund this, Cavanagh said that each member hotel will have to manage the costs as required by law. There is a chance that some employees will be recalled back to the CNMI, she said, but because the process of applying for a permit takes months to process, it will take a while until they will be called back.

Separately, in a letter to CNMI leaders last Tuesday, IPI chief executive officer Donald R. Browne disclosed the company's plan to send back to their home countries hundreds of their employees, saying the company believes that tourism to the CNMI will not likely resume until May 2021.

IPI closed its casino last March due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Browne said it does not appear that international flights will resume until January 2021. In all likelihood, IPI will remain closed and have no income for the next eight months, he said.

Added costs

He said IPI has had to furlough hundreds of employees and this has required the company to pay for repatriation costs. Also, in the case of their foreign workers, called CW workers, Browne said that IPI has had to pay three-fourths of what they should have earned even though they will not be working because that is what U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services requires.

On the construction side, IPI had 266 H-2B workers and 110 local manpower, for a total of 376. The H-2B workers are from Taiwan, Thailand, Mongolia, Australia, and Turkey.

Browne said that when IPI reopens, it will have significant reopening costs as it will have to bring back hundreds of workers.

Browne

"Yet to fund all of this IPI will have no income until after it does reopen," he said.

This was echoed by Cavanagh, who said, "We have to handle the possibility of not opening for another couple of months as long as there are no regular flights because of the pandemic. Once we do open, it will be very challenging to manage," she said.

Operating costs

Even though IPI has closed the casino, it still has significant operating costs each month that it must pay, he said. IPI must periodically turn on the air-conditioning so that the furnishings do not get moldy and so that the electrical gaming machines do not rust. Browne said IPI also must maintain security even through there is no income to pay these costs.

He said IPI is presently current on all wages owed its remaining employees and is providing its employees that remain on Saipan with health insurance. He said IPI is keeping the power on for its employees who remain in company-provided housing.

License fee

In that same letter, Browne informed Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan), and other government officials that IPI won't be able to pay the $15.5 million annual casino license fee that was due last Wednesday.

Citing "force majeure" pursuant to Section 25 of the Casino License Agreement because of the worldwide pandemic, IPI requests an abatement of the casino license fee for the year 2020.

IPI also proposes that payment of the $3 million to support the operations of the Commonwealth Casino Commission that IPI owes by this October, be delayed until 30 days before the scheduled reopening of IPI's casino in Garapan.

BOTH

From Page 1

he experienced mild symptoms that included a slight fever, chills, and a cough.

"This afternoon (Aug. 12), I began to exhibit mild symptoms, including a slight fever, chills, and a cough, and felt it was necessary to test again. Tonight (Aug. 12), I received a positive result," said Tenorio. Before this, Tenorio said he followed all health protocols such as wearing a face mask, practicing social distancing, etc.

"Despite exhibiting moderate symptoms of the virus, I remain in good health. I will continue my isolation pending clearance from my health care provider," said Tenorio. Additionally, all in-person meetings involving Leon Guerrero and Tenorio have been cancelled and shifted to online and will continue uninterrupted.

Tenorio also stated that a contact tracing is ongoing for immediate contacts such as family members, friends, and staff. Testing is also in the process.

"To the people of Guam, we stay the course. We maintain our COVID-19 response—steadfast as ever. Gov. Leon Guerrero's condition has been improving daily, and government operations continue with all the safety measures in place. Tomorrow, we will take a series of steps to redouble our effort against COVID-19 and keep Guam safe," said Tenorio.

Two government offices in Guam temporarily closed their doors yesterday after both offices received news that one employee tested positive for COVID-19. The two government offices are Guam's International Airport Authority and Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Services Division of General Administration Office.

According to GIAA executive manager John M. Quinata, they were informed last Aug. 13 of the confirmed positive case. "Although all employees have been diligent in complying with the wearing of facial coverings and practicing of social distancing in their work spaces, out of an abundance of caution, we will be temporarily closing our administration office until such time DPHSS contact tracing and investigation can take place and sanitization of the workspace is completed to ensure the safety and health of our employees," said Quinata in a statement.

PUA

From Page 1

the applications.

"We got some good news that around $19 million to $20 million will be disbursed today and tomorrow for nearly additional 3,000 PUA applicants. So, we're almost there, but not quite. But we've been getting more folks into helping do the manual inputs [for PUA]," he said.

According to the governor, the delays in some of the applications are due to the documents being incomplete or needing to be verified.

"We've seen a lot of applications that have been held back for [being] incomplete and need[ing] verification on some of the information that's been provided. I know that some… feel that we're taking too long, but at the same time, we want to make sure that the information that are being processed are processed right once," he explained.

As for ongoing concerns about CNMI contract workers not being eligible for PUA, and when asked about Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) statement that the local government could have pushed back and argued with the federal agencies regarding the CARES Act's intent, the governor raised that changes needed to be made in the U.S. Congress regarding the CARES Act.

"If you look at it, we can…argue every argument out there. The simple question is, is CW included in the Cares Act? If the answer's yes, they will process it. If the answer is no, then please make those changes," he said.

Last week, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente stated that they are working on processing as many PUA applications, "working on a daily basis anywhere between 300 and 500 applications," but the vetting takes time, given the errors and inaccuracies in the documents.

Labor also earlier announced that they will be scheduling outreach sessions with different organizations, to assist people with filling out the applications.

To ask about the status of your PUA application, as well as for other questions, email the Department of Labor at info@puamarianas.com.

HOUSE

From Page 1

ing Oct. 1, 2020, and ending Sept. 30, 2021.

The total identified budgetary resources for fiscal year 2021 is $144,415,554.00, subject to adjustments bringing it down to $87,212,976.00, where $4,366,640 is appropriated to the Judicial Branch; $4,875,379 to the Legislative Branch; and $23,387,085 to the Executive Branch.

The First Senatorial District of Rota, was appropriated $4,849,727; the Second Senatorial District of Tinian and Aguigan, $4,282,501; and the Third Senatorial District of Saipan and Northern Islands Mayors and Saipan Municipal Council, $1,771,864.

Boards and commissions were appropriated $838,317, independent programs, $10,051,039, and other programs, $28,234,260.

However, it is the salary caps in Section 604 of the bill that attracted the most attention, not just from the appointed officials that are bound to be affected but members of the community who support them.

Section 604 of the bill provides that salaries for some appointed officials are to revert back to the salaries or its equivalent, as prescribed in Public Law 7-31, less 20% if applicable, based on the governor's revised allocation for fiscal year 2021.

Finance Secretary David Atalig, speaking before the House members, referred to the provision as a "curse" and a "devaluing of service."

"What diligent, honest, hardworking, educated people will endure this devaluing of service? What standard are we placing in the administration of the Commonwealth laws and regulations?" he said. "Public service should not be a curse. We should be proud to serve, and expected to perform miracles, shouldering the lives and success of hundreds, if not thousands of our people, and to not be told we have no value by this Legislature."

Press secretary Kevin Bautista also spoke before lawmakers and raised how the provision will discourage young professionals from getting into positions of leadership in the Commonwealth.

Proposals on an across-the-board salary cut, and unpaid holidays were also raised, and lawmakers were half and half, with some arguing that the cuts are a major cut, which is unfair, specifically targeting specific individuals, while others said the cuts are essential, given the fiscal situation of the CNMI government.

1K bottled water cases donated to COVID-19 task force

Jeju SamDaSoo donated 1,000 bottled water cases to the Saipan Mayor's Office yesterday with the help of Young's Wholesale.

The bottled water is for the hardworking staff of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force in the CNMI. According to Mayor David M. Apatang, he would like to thank this generous gesture for the islands' front-liners.

The 1,000 bottled water cases came from Jeju SamDaSoo with the help of Young's Wholesale. Young's Wholesale is the exclusive distributor of Jeju SamDaSoo in the CNMI.

According to Hoon Ahn, president of Young's Wholesale, Jeju SamDaSoo, a government-owned company in South Korea, has been supplying water in the CNMI for more than 10 years.

"We hope all of this will help all our workers in the COVID-19 task force. We support all efforts in the CNMI," Ahn added.

Apatang said that they will be contacting the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Department of Public Safety, and Division of Customs to make arrangements to pick up the bottled water cases from Young's Wholesale as well as from the mayor's office.

"I want to thank the Jeju SamDaSoo and Young's Wholesale for helping us out in the community, and their generous donation to help out our COVID-19 task force," said Apatang. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

CHEVY ALIPIO

Young's Wholesale president Hoon Ahn, left, presents 1,000 bottled water cases donated by Jeju SamDaSoo to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang. The water is intended for the staff of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

CUC transfers $475K to O&M account

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has transferred $475,000 to its operations and maintenance programs account, or O&M, which CUC had set up last year at the recommendation of the U.S. government to better ensure that the millions of funds CUC receives from the federal and the CNMI governments for projects are spent properly in the future.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho recently informed assistant attorney general Jose S. P. Mafnas Jr., who is CUC's legal counsel, that CUC transferred the amount to the O&M Account last Aug. 3 to fund operations and maintenance or infrastructure activities under Stipulated Order No. 2, or SO2, which refers to court-mandated projects that focus on oil issues and apply to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

Camacho said that CUC was required to transfer funds to the O&M Account on or before July 31, 2020, pursuant to a court order. However, the executive director said, the transfer of the money was delayed due to an oversight made by CUC's accounting section.

Mafnas notified the District Court last week about the transfer of funds.

The U.S. government, on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and CUC have agreed that CUC shall implement O&M activities according to industry standards.

Under the agreement, beginning on July 31, 2019, and every year after that, CUC shall infuse $475,00 per year to the O&M Account for 10 years. At a minimum, the funding must be reserved to address large-scale O&M activities that occur on five-year or 10-year cycles, such as smart pigging and tank inspections.

NAVFAC Pacific awards $44M contract for projects in Guam

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded a $44 million firm-fixed-price task order under a multiple award construction contract to Black Construction-Tutor Perini JV, of Barrigada, Guam last Aug. 7 for the design and construction of explosive ordnance compound facilities at Naval Base Guam.

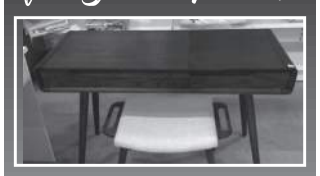
"This project constructs permanent facilities to support Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 by providing adequate operational, maintenance, storage spaces, and infrastructure to support their training and mission readiness," said U.S. Naval Base commanding officer Capt. Jeffrey Grimes. "EODMU-5 is strategically located [in] Guam so they can quickly deploy to support Seventh Fleet operations. In addition, they support the local community by responding to UXOs. This project goes hand-in-hand with our mission here at U.S. Naval Base Guam."

The work to be performed provides for the design and construction of a consolidated operations facility, maintenance facility, armory, and multipurpose/training facility.

Work will be performed in Apra Harbor, Guam with an expected completion date of December 2022. ***(USN)***

WELCOME
TO Fabulous
SAIPAN VEGAS
GOLF RESORT & SLOT CLUB
CLUB 88
The Best Little Gaming Club In Saipan
NOW OPEN!
We want to assure you that our top priority is to protect you as well as our team members.
POINTS OF SAFETY
TEMPERATURE CHECKS FOR EMPLOYEES AND GUESTS
Before entering the building, employees and guests will have their temperatures checked. We ask guests and employees to stay at home if they are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, or if you have been around someone confirmed to have COVID-19 within the past 14 days.
MANDATORY MASKS & PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)
Employees will be required to wear an approved mask while on property. Guests are strongly encouraged to wear masks as well. Gloves will continue to be worn by employees who require them to do their jobs.
6 FEET (2M)
SOCIAL DISTANCING
We will implement 6-foot physical distancing policies throughout the casino with floor guides to assist and remind our guests. Slot machines, table games, and restaurant seating will be configured to allow for social distancing.
ENHANCED SANITATION
Guests will have easy access to hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes throughout the property.
NIGHTLY DEEP CLEANING
We will close our property nightly for deep cleaning and thorough sanitation.
ENHANCED CLEANING
Although our cleaning protocols have always been important, we will increase the amount of routine cleaning and disinfecting, with a focus on high-traffic areas.
FREQUENT HAND WASHING
When visiting our property, we encourage our guests to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer.
SAIPAN VEGAS LOCATION: MIDDLE ROAD (NEXT TO MCDONALD'S) • 5AM - 1AM DAILY I PHONE (670) 234-7300
CLUB 88 LOCATION: OCEAN VIEW HOTEL, GARAPAN • 5AM - 1AM DAILY I PHONE (670) 233-0888

GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
NEW ARRIVAL
LAVATORY FAUCET, MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS, G.I. PIPES, SQUARE TUBES, SHORING JACK PIPE, ROOFING TIN & MANY MORE ABS, CPVC, PVC, CONDUIT PIPES & FITTINGS ARE ALL MADE IN USA ELECTRICAL TOOLS, WATER HEATER & WINDOWS
NEW ARRIVAL Furniture

Make a Difference for Your House!


NEW ARRIVALS! VALSPAR PAINT
It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!

LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

Saipan contractor to pay $165,807 in back wages

After an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, Win Win Construction—a Saipan-based residential and commercial construction contractor—will pay $165,807 in back wages to 23 employees to resolve violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act's minimum wage and overtime requirements, and pay $15,755 in civil penalties.

WHD investigators found that Win Win Construction paid workers building a hotel in Afetna, Saipan, flat rates per day, in renminbi currency, which failed to cover the hours employees worked at the U.S. federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour. This practice of paying flat day rates, regardless of the number of hours employees worked, also resulted in overtime violations when they worked more than 40 hours in a workweek but the employer failed to pay overtime. WHD also cited FLSA recordkeeping violations when the employer failed to record the actual number of hours employees worked.

"Employers in the United States and its territories can't enter into wage agreements with workers to pay less than the federal minimum wage," said Wage and Hour district director Terence Trotter in Honolulu, Hawaii. "Employers that violate the overtime and minimum wage requirements gain an unlawful economic advantage over those who pay their workers in compliance with the law. We encourage employers and employees to call us for assistance, to improve their understanding of the labor laws, and to learn about our online educational tools, so they can avoid violations like those found in this investigation."

Win Win Construction Inc. employs U.S. citizens and foreign national workers from China to perform residential and commercial construction work on Saipan.

The department offers numerous resources to ensure employers have the tools they need to understand their responsibilities and to comply with federal law, such as online videos and confidential calls to local WHD offices.

For more information about the FLSA and other laws enforced by the Wage and Hour Division, contact the toll-free helpline at 866-4US-WAGE (487-9243). Employers who discover overtime or minimum wage violations may self-report and resolve those violations without litigation through the PAID program. Information is also available at https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd. ***(PR)***

258 EIDL worth $16.2M OK'd in CNMI

The U.S. Small Business Administration has approved over 3.3 million economic injury disaster loans nationwide, totaling over $178 billion. In the Northern Marianas, 258 loans have been approved as of Aug. 7, with the amount totaling $16,236,600.

In comparison, Guam had 1,269 loans approved totaling $74,139,100; American Samoa had 149 totaling $9,629,400; Puerto Rico had 21,064 totaling $1,119,145,400; and the U.S. Virgin Islands had 1,573 totaling $886,580,300.

Small businesses all over the U.S., as well as in territories such as the CNMI, that have been hit economically due to COVID-19 are provided with the low-interest federal disaster loan through SBA, to use as working capital.

Up to $2 million in economic injury disaster loans may be availed of by qualified small businesses, private non-profit organizations, small agricultural cooperatives, and small aquaculture enterprises impacted by the pandemic since Jan. 31, 2020, to help with their operating expenses.

Also, SBA, through its Paycheck Protection Program, which helps small businesses keep their employees on the payroll, has approved, as of Aug. 8, 2020, over 5.2 million loans worth $525 billion nationwide so far. Of that number, 482 is for the CNMI, totaling $38,700,116.

Based on this SBA data, the overall average loan size is $101,000. Over $133 billion is still available under the Paycheck Protection Program. Other than payroll, this program helps small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with funding that may also be used to pay rent, mortgage interest, or utilities.

Small businesses may apply online, or download applications at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela to avail of this economic injury disaster loan. The deadline to apply is Dec. 21, 2020. ***(Iva Maurin)***

Saipancleanup hopes to inspire

A youth group that calls itself Saipancleanup did another cleanup last week, this time at the Agrihan Point, collecting around 12 trash bags of plastic waste and marine debris.

Logan Mister, who coordinates the cleanups, said it warms the heart that there are a lot of people who care enough of the island to volunteer. "We had eight amazing helpers who were there to volunteer. It is always great to know that people on the island would love to help and I hope they continue this good deed."

The group did cleanups in the last two weeks, focusing on the pocket beaches in Dandan but also visited several sites where illegal dumping was happening.

"We have revisited sites that we cleaned up multiple times and we see progress with less trash, but at the same time we have seen some sites covered in trash again and it is quite disappointing," said Mister.

One of the volunteers, Grace Choi, said, she has been helping out with Saipancleanup since she got back from college. "I am leaving for Las Vegas in less than two weeks, but I hope that Saipancleanup will continue doing what they are doing, even if it is once every two weeks..."

"I hope that even when Logan leaves for school in the spring semester, the people on island will keep the group together and pick up trash from time to time," she added.

Mister also said that they want to participate in the International Coastal Cleanup, which typically happens on the third Sunday of September. "We plan to do cleanups as often as we can but it's nice to know that we are running out of trash to pick up."

"We hope we continue to inspire others to clean our beaches and hope people understand the importance of reducing single use plastic," Mister added. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EXPLOSIVE DETECTION SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT PROJECT,** SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-16.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Explosive Detection Systems Replacement Project for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-006-16" and submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020, to the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of the two existing Explosive Detections System (EDS) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport with a new temporary baggage facility for the temporary conveyors/EDS machines including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the U.S. Transportation Security Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED FORTY (540) calendar days**.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ($1,500.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the departure terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (US $250.00) for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD) including the bid schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

Each bidder shall file at the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, a written notice of intention to bid using the Intent to Bid Form on LP 2 of the specifications, or similar, at least seven **(7) calendar days** prior to the date designated for the opening of bid proposals.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid meeting. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as face wear a mask at all times while at the airport.

Questions should be submitted to the CPA Executive Director at the CPA Administration Office, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 30, 2020

Dental Solutions

Looking for (1) employee to work as Insurance Claims Clerk Temporary, Full-time (renewal)

• Must have (12) months experience in dental claims processing

• Must have knowledge and experience processing dental insurance claims both electronically and on paper.

• Must have knowledge in dental procedures, dental terminology and be familiar in ADA Codes.

• Atleast with associates degree in business administration.

Applicants may submit his/her CV to mikehalldds@hotmail.com and also applicants may submit his/her resume during working hours from Tuesday to Saturday from 8:30 AM to 5:30PM at the office location in Microbeach Rd., Garapan Saipan Northern Mariana Island. Applicants may also contact Dr. Michael Hall at telephone number 1 (670) 483-4868 or 1 (670) 233-3300 from Tuesday to Saturday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES 25% OFF

BATH TOWELS 25% OFF

AREA RUGS 25% OFF

COMFORTERS 25% OFF

PLASTIC WARES 25% OFF

COOLERS & BBQ GRILLS 25% OFF

KITCHEN WARES 25% OFF

MENS SHIRTS & SHORTS 25% OFF

LADIES DRESSES & SLACKS 25% OFF

INFANTS SHORT SETS 25% OFF

BOYS SHIRTS 25% OFF

GIRLS SHORT SETS & DRESSES 25% OFF

SAIPAN SOUVENIR KEYCHAINS & MAGNETS 25% OFF

WATCHES 20% OFF

SHOES & SANDALS 20% OFF

2020 2-DAY MEGA SALE

Saturday & Sunday, August 15 & 16, 2020

US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 20# $11.99

US PORK SPARERIBS 20# $20.99

US SMOKED PICNIC HAM $1.49/lb.

HOFFY PORTUGUESE SAUSAGE 10oz $2.99

PALM CORNED BEEF 11.5oz $3.49 ea.

ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz $1.49 ea.

LIN SUGAR 4.4# $1.79 ea.

SUMIRE JAPONICA RICE 44# $19.99

DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 50# $28.99

JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4pk $2.99

MARKET/ORGANIC ITEMS AVAILABLE

U.S. ORANGE CHOICE/FANCY 99¢/lb.

U.S. POTATO RUSSETT/IDAHO (S) 79¢/lb.

DAISY SOUR CREAM ORIG 16z $2.99 ea.

AJAX LEMON DISH LIQUID 28oz
AJAX A/B ORANGE DISH LIQUID 30oz $1.99 ea.

CALSUN HOMOGENIZED MILK 32z $1.99 ea.

MOM 2X COCO ROOS BAG 23.6z $3.99

U.S. EGGS X-LARGE WHT 2.5DZ /TR $3.99

U.S. NZ ONION YELLOW 49¢/lb.

U.S. GRAPES RED SEEDLESS /LB $1.59/lb.

Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

DISCLAIMER: PHOTOS MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL PRODUCTS.
PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR OF SAIPAN

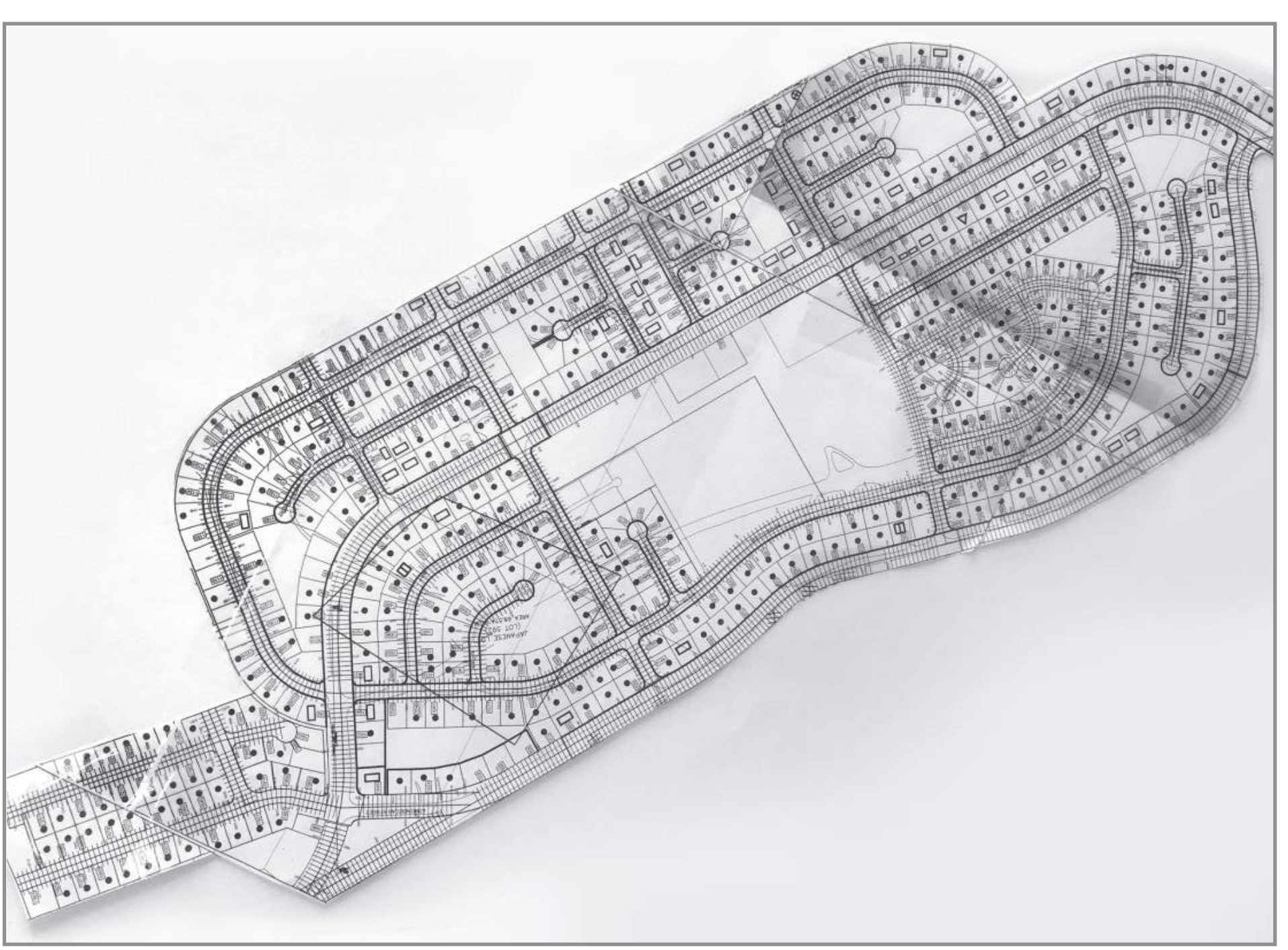
PUBLIC NOTICE

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan will start conducting onsite visits to homes and commercial and non-commercial buildings in the Koblerville homestead subdivision and immediate surrounding subdivisions beginning August 3, 2020, for the purpose of delivering in person to each homeowner and owner of a commercial or non-commercial building their property's designated street address number. The map of the initial project area of Koblerville homestead subdivision, former MIHA turnkey subdivision, and Tottotville subdivision is shown below.

Mayor David M. Apatang respectfully requests the support and understanding of the homeowners and owners of buildings in the project area to welcome his office's street addressing staff and his office's consultant staff who will be visiting their homes and buildings beginning August 3, 2020.

The next project area will be announced at least two weeks before the initial project (as shown on the map below) is completed.

Mayor Apatang appreciates your support and understanding as his office endeavors to carry out the addressing project so that every home and commercial and non-commercial building will be numbered.



MCS to begin online classes on Monday, Aug. 17

Mount Carmel School is set to begin online classes on Monday, Aug. 17, 2020. The school was originally scheduled to begin its hybrid course schedule on Aug. 6, 2020, but due to a delay in the shipment of safety equipment MCS decided to postpone the start of face-to-face classes until Aug. 31, 2020, pending Gov. Ralph DLG Torres's issuance of guidelines for face-to-face classes.

On Aug. 12 and 13, 2020, Mount Carmel School also held a "Online Launch Orientation" on Facebook Live to engage with families about Mount Carmel's online tools, expectations, and student schedules as families prepare for the start of online classes.

Throughout this week (Aug. 10 to 14) Mount Carmel School also scheduled specific grade-levels to pick up resource packets that contained login codes and information for online learning platforms like Edmodo, Zoom, Khan Academy, and Achieve3000, as well as textbooks and other school-issued supplies.

"When challenges arise that are beyond our control, we take great pride in our ability to adapt," said school president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero. "The decision to delay the start of the school year came down to ensuring safety for our school family. Although it'll be two weeks of online learning, we are working hard to gradually transition our students back to safe face-to-face engagement. Additionally, our community is simply excited and ready to reconnect with our students."

School principal Frances Taimanao said, "Some families were more ready than others to bring their students back on campus and when it comes to safety for their children we can understand their concern. We are thankful for our families for their continued support and trust in Mount Carmel School. Safety and learning are at the forefront of our efforts and I hope our stakeholders can see that we are truly going above and beyond to keep our students, employees, and community safe."

Throughout this week, Mount Carmel School families were scheduled to pick their child's Student Resource Packets in preparation for the start of online classes next week Monday, Aug. 17, 2020.

MCS

Although slots are limited, Mount Carmel School is still accepting applications for open grade-levels this school year. For more information, visit www.mountcarmel-saipan.com. ***(PR)***

Guam construction contractor to pay $141,755 in back wages

HAGATNA, Guam—After an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division, Citi Development & Construction Inc.—a construction contractor in Guam—will pay $141,755 to 57 employees for violating the Fair Labor Standards Act's overtime, minimum wage and recordkeeping requirements. The employer also will pay $23,000 in penalties.

WHD investigators found that Citi Development & Construction Inc. paid employees overtime hours at straight-time rates, resulting in $138,565 in unpaid wages. WHD also found the employer failed to pay drivers who transported workers between barracks and job sites on the company's behalf – before and after their work shifts – a total of $3,190 in unpaid wages for that time. Citi Development also failed to record some of the straight-time wages they paid workers for hours worked beyond 40 in a week, violating federal recordkeeping requirements.

"The U.S. Department of Labor is committed to ensuring that workers get paid all the wages they have legally earned," said Wage and Hour district director Terence Trotter in Honolulu, Hawaii. "The Wage and Hour Division will continue to enforce the law so all employers abide by the same rules. We encourage other employers in this industry to use the results of this investigation as an opportunity to review their own pay practices, and to avoid violations like those found in this case." ***(PR)***

'Two negative tests before release'

What is considered safe after a person has tested positive for COVID-19? An individual has to have two negative test results before they are released to the community, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña.

What is "strange" about the virus, though, is that the person will still be carrying a viral load. At the same time, the 14-day incubation period of when an individual first tested positive will determine if they are infectious or not, based on the advisory of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Muña.

"An individual can have a viral load and remain positive even after 21 days. ...There's a clinical decision then, and that is the medical team doing a clinical assessment and making a determination, consulting with CDC, and making that decision to say, okay, this individual is no longer infectious," said Muña.

As for the medication that is offered for someone who has tested positive, Remdesivir, which was once used to fight the Ebola disease, is now the medicine that is being used to treat COVID-19.

Although the Food and Drug Administration has approved Remdesivir to treat COVID-19, an individual would have to be in a more critical state to be administered the medication than someone who has just tested positive, with no symptoms, Muña said.

"There is Remdesivir… [which] has been approved by FDA to treat COVID-19. But that that individual has to be in, I guess, in a more critical state, rather than someone who is just…positive…and has no symptoms, then you don't treat that individual with such medication," said Muña. ***(Justine Nauta)***

COUNTRY HOUSE RESTAURANT

NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH & DINNER

STEAK RESTAURANT COUNTRY HOUSE SINCE 1992

Known for its Wild West and cowboy theme, Country House Restaurant in Garapan is now open for dine-in or take-out and ready to say "howdy!" to all after almost five months of hibernation due to COVID-19 concerns. Get ready to embrace your inner cowboy and cowgirl with their lunch specials, bentos, and all-time popular dishes like hamburger steak, barbeque spare ribs, and certified angus beef sirloin steak.

According to Country House Restaurant floor manager Lupe Taman, their lunch menus will surely satisfy everyone's taste buds. "For dine-in, aside from the popular dishes available in our menu, we have lunch specials that changes every day and the main dish always comes with soup or salad and rice for only $10.50. For take-out, we offer bento meals for only $8," she said.

"Our lunch dishes everyday will surely give the community many options when they go out to eat lunch…we know with the pandemic and unemployment, these are hard times so we try to bring menus that are delicious and affordable… dinner operations will start on Aug. 14," she added.

Country House Restaurant was established in 1992 and to date, is still the first and only cowboy-themed restaurant on Saipan. It is the go-to place for delicious and affordable steaks and more. The ambiance will immediately transport you to the West as you see cowboy hats hanging from the wall, leather saddles, a buffalo head, carriage wheels, and even life-size Indian carving, just to name a few.

"We closed last March 24 and resumed operations last week but all that time, we would be in the office to work on employees' Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and our phones kept ringing for inquiries if we were open. When regulations became better and after getting all our permits to open, we finally did it last Aug. 1," Taman said.

"For people on the go, we have a curbside service where they can just call in their order and we will bring it to their car," she added.

Health and safety protocols are in place, according to administrative assistant Rosalinda Ada. "We abide by government regulations to keep employees and customers safe. We have separated tables, take customers' temperature as they come in, and ask for their names and contact numbers. We sanitize menus, tables and chairs when needed… On the first day we opened, we got a few tables filled and the experience gave us confidence that we can overcome the new challenges," she said.

"For almost 30 years, Country House Restaurant prides itself with good customer service with that cowboy and cowgirl style which is approachable and full of energy… we are open for family celebrations and company meetings as we sit six persons per table and if more, we will just put the tables and chairs in the same area and still observe social distancing…parking in front of the restaurant is available… Seeing old and new faces come back, gives us new energy and happiness… ," she added.

Country House Restaurant is open from Monday to Saturday for lunch at 11:00 am - 2:00 pm and dinner from 5:30pm - 8:30pm.

www.facebook.com/COUNTRY-HOUSE-SAIPAN

For more information, call 233-1908

*Certified Angus Beef Steak

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 161

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Hong Kong's chilling summer

Since Hong Kong's return to China in 1997, after a century of British rule, the Chinese Communist Party has always had the authority to intervene in the semiautonomous city. This summer that authority has been exercised with utter ruthlessness.

Historians will mark it as the season when free speech officially died in Hong Kong.

On June 30, Beijing imposed a national security law that gives the CCP the power to intervene in Hong Kong's criminal cases, superseding existing local legislation. The new restrictions, written and signed into law without input from the residents of Hong Kong, compromise the only common-law jurisdiction in China, and effectively smother the freedoms of speech and assembly that have made the city unique.

In a display of how far China's new security law will go to crush dissent, four students—the youngest only 16—were detained July 30 for advocating Hong Kong's independence on social media. The next day, 12 pro-democracy candidates were disqualified from running for local council seats in what amounted to a political purge. The planned council elections, in which there were expectations of losses for Beijing-backed candidates, were delayed until next September citing coronavirus as a pretext to silence opposition.

Hong Kong's interminable summer has also seen democracy-themed books removed from public libraries; the banning of students from singing songs that the CCP deems "political"; and the firing of a prominent law professor and democracy activist from his university post. The most recent blow came Monday, when Jimmy Lai, publisher of the pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily and frequent critic of Beijing, was arrested on charges of "sedition, criminal fraud, and collusion." This is the CCP's way of saying Lai spoke too many truths. Under the new security law, the 71-year-old could spend the rest of his life in prison.

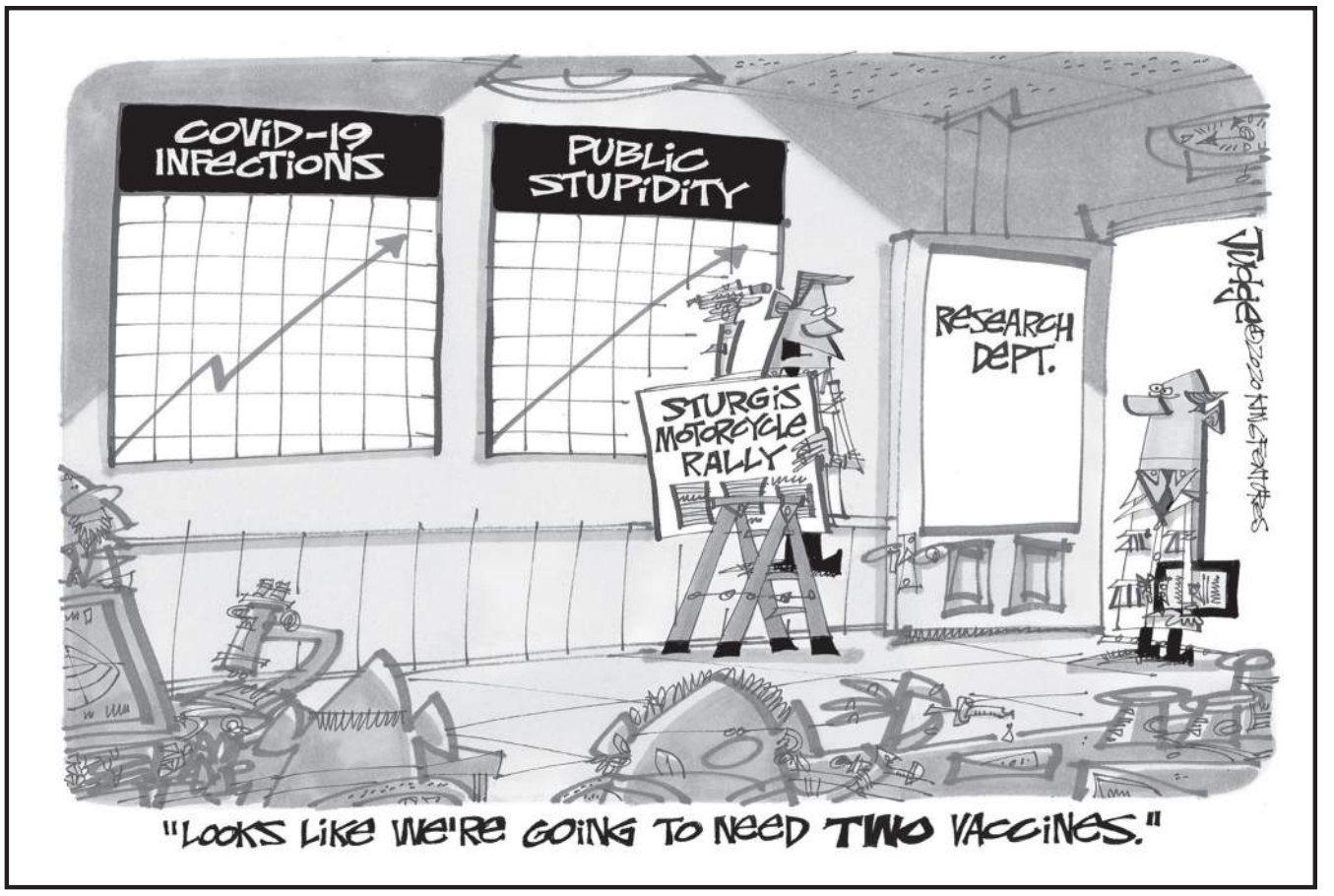
This is how Beijing dismantles a pro-democracy movement that has been gaining momentum for nearly a decade.

Fortunately, the United States has not remained silent. Seeking to uphold the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration, which guarantees that expression and assembly are protected in Hong Kong, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a bill that would sanction Chinese officials who undermine Hong Kong's autonomy. Another bipartisan effort was launched to give refugee status to Hong Kong residents who suffer persecution. Moreover, both the State and Treasury departments have announced sanctions and visa restrictions targeting Chinese officials who impugn human rights and freedoms.

The day after Lai's arrest, Apple Daily produced over 500,000 copies of the paper, a 600% increase from its daily circulation; online subscriptions are also reportedly up 20,000 for the week.

Polls show that pro-democracy Hong Kongers are in the

See HONG KONG'S on Next Page



In California Sen. Kamala Harris, Biden chooses a VP hailing from our most diverse state

By GEORGE SKELTON
Los Angeles Times

Political columnist George Skelton has covered government and politics for nearly 60 years and for the Los Angeles Times *since 1974.*

It's fitting that California, arguably the nation's most diverse state, would produce the first woman of color to be placed on a major party presidential ticket.

We're always ahead of the curve, right? At least that's what we tell ourselves. In this instance, we clearly are—a historic feat that deserves celebration by all Americans, regardless of their politics.

We shouldn't pat ourselves on the backs too enthusiastically, however. California, by far the nation's most populous state, still has not elected a female governor. Many other states have. Neither have we elected a governor of color.

This is also a state of immigrants. And fittingly, Sen. Kamala Harris is the daughter of immigrant parents—a father from Jamaica, a mother from India. Harris is not only the first Black woman, but also the first Asian American person to be given a spot on a major presidential ticket.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, California's population is 39% Latino, 37% white, 15% Asian, 6% Black, 3% multiracial—like Harris—and fewer than 1% Native American or Pacific Islander.

That gives former prosecutor Harris a special license to articulate the case against President Donald Trump's xenophobic, family-ripping immigration policies.

Her verbal fighting skills—in a debate, on the stump or in TV interviews—were obviously a key selling point to presumptive Democratic nominee Joe Biden. She's very capable of drawing blood from an opponent.

Biden doesn't have to worry about Harris slacking off on the campaign trail—as some presidential candidates have had to in the past. She's an eager brawler.

"Joe has long been impressed by how tough Kamala is," the Biden campaign stated in announcing the selection of Harris.

It added: "Kamala doesn't hesitate to take on powerful people and powerful interests and that's exactly the kind of leader Joe wants by his side to rebuild this country and restore the soul of the nation."

Well, that's a reach—that part about taking on powerful people and interests.

Critics of Harris' performances as California attorney general and San Francisco district attorney have cited her caution in taking on tough foes, especially if it would alienate her core constituency: law enforcement.

Now she's a loud advocate for police reform. But as attorney general she largely avoided intervening in cases involving questionable police killings.

Harris also declined to take positions on controversial ballot measures, including two to abolish the death penalty—a practice she claimed to abhor—and another to reduce prison sentences.

As a presidential candidate, Harris wavered on the hot issue of universal health care, flip-flopping on whether private insurance should play a role.

But none of that will matter this fall, except as attack fodder for Trump.

There'll be no agonizing by Harris over policy positions. Like all veep candidates—Biden included under Barack Obama—Harris' positions will be decided by the presidential nominee.

Harris' strength is in her prosecutorial skills, not her policy wisdom or tactical genius. And that's what Biden is counting on.

Another huge selling point for Harris, 55, was Biden's expected comfort level with her. That's because of her close working relationship with Biden's son, Beau, when both were state attorneys general.

"Back when Kamala was attorney general, she worked closely with Beau," Biden tweeted supporters Tuesday. "I watched as they took on the big banks, lifted up working people and protected women and kids from abuse. I was proud then and I'm proud now to have her as my partner in this campaign."

It seems Biden watched his son a lot more than Harris.

This was by far Biden's most important campaign decision and he deserves credit for following his gut. But we need to wait and see how this turns out—and whether Harris turns off suburban Republican women in key battleground states such as Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Is Harris an asset, who will energize young people and women of color to vote in droves—or did Biden violate the Hippocratic oath about first doing no harm? We won't know until November.

Some insiders had warned Biden that Harris seemed too "ambitious" and could be disloyal. This was largely based on Harris' attack against Biden on busing in an early debate.

But Biden made a point of showing he doesn't hold a grudge.

Another California VP prospect, Los Angeles Rep. Karen Bass, was apparently passed over for a few reasons:

She wasn't as experienced a campaigner as Harris. She hadn't even run a statewide campaign, let alone one nationally. Plus, she and Biden weren't particularly close. She didn't come across as a fighter. And she praised Cuban leader Fidel Castro when he died,

See CALIFORNIA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

If states don't coordinate lockdown procedures immediately, our future is grim

By SINAN ARAL
Los Angeles Times

Sinan Aral is the David Austin Professor of Management at the MIT Sloan School of Management and director of the MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy. He is the author of the forthcoming book The Hype Machine.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ricochet across the country, the need for a coordinated response has never been more urgent. But since there is no coordination at the national level, it falls to governors to create at least a coordinated regional response to tamp down the spread of the coronavirus.

The latest research by our team in the Social Analytics Lab at the MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy shows why coordination across large geographic areas is critically important. Our analysis found that the mobility patterns of people in one state are substantially affected by the policies and behavior of people in other, sometimes distant states.

The coronavirus is not limited by geography, and decisions made in a region will travel when people travel and carry the virus with them. Adjacency is not necessary for the health policies of one place—city, county or state—to affect people in other places because the effects are also transmitted through the influence of social media.

We take cues from our social media connections on what to believe and how to act. When we see our friends having barbecues on Instagram, we begin to think it might be safe to gather with friends. When we speak to our parents over Zoom in distant states, we may tell them to wear masks and stay home.

At scale, these digital connections move the needle—even more than local policy or geographically proximate travel. When just one-third of a state's social and geographic peer states adopt shelter-in-place policies, it creates a reduction in mobility equal to that state's own policy.

To study the spillover effects of uncoordinated policies, my co-authors and I combined daily, county-level data on all the shelter-in-place and business closure policies (whether strict, lax or nonexistent) in every state in March and April, with movement data from more than 27 million mobile devices, social network connections among more than 220 million Facebook users, as well as daily temperature and precipitation data from 62,000 weather stations, and county-level census data on population demographics to estimate the geographic and social network spillovers created by regional policies across the United States.

We collected the mobility data through a collaboration with Facebook's Data for Good initiative and SafeGraph's COVID mobility research program. We measured connections over social media using an index of the degree to which different U.S. counties are socially connected on Facebook. We then measured social and geographic spillovers by estimating how the initiation of a shelter-in-place order in one state created changes in the relative movement of mobile phones in other states, both through travel and through social influence over Facebook. We used the weather data to estimate causal relationships between policies in one state and mobility in faraway states—if inclement weather in one state is correlated with reductions in mobility in distant states that don't experience that weather, social influence is at work.

Our research suggests that the coronavirus will bounce back and forth across the country unless states coordinate their travel and closure policies more closely.

After Georgia reopened and let its shelter-in-place policy lapse on May 1, for example, half a million people flocked to the state—a 13% increase in out-of-state visitors or about 62,000 additional visitors a day in the week after the state reopened. Ten days later, beginning May 10, Georgia experienced a marked uptick in new coronavirus cases that lasted for almost two weeks.

Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, reopened in mid-May and spent millions to promote tourism with advertisements and marketing campaigns targeting states like Ohio, Georgia, New York and New Jersey. Just two weeks later, the town and the surrounding county started seeing a surge in new coronavirus cases.

Our work also gives governors a way to coordinate their policies in the absence of national guidance. We created coordination maps for all 50 states that show which states affect each other most and which states would benefit from coordinating their policies more closely. We can see in these maps strong connections not just between geographically proximate states, but also between socially connected, geographically distant states.

For example, while Georgia is mostly influenced by neighboring states through travel, Florida is most affected by New York, through travel and digital social influence, though the two states are nearly 1,000 miles apart. New Hampshire has a strong influence on adjacent Massachusetts, despite being a small state, while Texas is most influenced by California, despite not being adjacent.

When a state reopens while its peer state remains closed, travel spikes from the closed state into the open state. Only when both states adopt similar shelter-in-place policies does travel between the states diminish.

New York and California provide stark examples of different approaches. In New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo instituted strict travel restrictions and 14-day quarantine mandates for 36 states, with a $10,000 fine for not quarantining and a $2,000 fine for not filling out travel forms upon arrival in New York. Gov. Gavin Newsom of California, by contrast, has not imposed any travel restrictions since the pandemic began. New cases in New York have remained steady and low since June, while California is still in the grip of a coronavirus outbreak that started in late May.

It's quite clear that what governors do directly affects the health and lives of millions beyond their borders. They have to exercise leadership to protect not only their own residents, but those in adjacent and even distant states.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we've often heard that we are "all in this together." Now more than ever, it is time to start acting like it.

HONG KONG'S

From Page 10

majority. These men and women are standing by the paper as it vows to "fight on" for media freedom in Hong Kong. America should be standing by it as well.

(c)2020 *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

Kamala Harris will strengthen Biden's presidential bid

Joe Biden's selection Tuesday of U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris as his vice-presidential running mate was a smart and safe pick that breaks barriers while maintaining the centrist positioning critical for carrying swing states in the election less than three months away.

Harris is the first Black woman and first person of Indian descent on a major national ticket. As a presidential candidate, she proved to be a tough political debater and as a senator to be a razor-sharp interrogator and advocate for social justice.

Her skills as a prosecutor will serve Biden well during the remainder of the campaign, especially in her debate with Vice President Mike Pence. And her relative youth, thoughtful approach to policy and background as a woman of color will provide Biden a solid sounding board if he is elected president.

If Biden turns to Harris as President Barack Obama relied on Biden for advice, it will broaden him as a candidate and as the nation's leader. As for the ultimate vice-presidential qualification—especially because Biden, if elected, would be 78 when he took office—Harris has demonstrated that she is well-qualified to step in as commander in chief.

In most normal years, the selection of a vice-presidential running mate has not proven to significantly affect the top-of-the-ticket race. But Biden, while running with Obama in 2008, saw the damage of a bad pick when Sen. John McCain chose Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

Moreover, this isn't a normal year. Apart from the higher focus on Biden's running mate because of his age, the Democratic candidate raised the stakes with his announcement that he would pick a woman and the anticipation that, in a time of increasing focus on racial inequity, his selection would be a person of color.

Harris was one of only two remaining top vice-presidential contenders—Sen. Elizabeth Warren being the other—who had already been campaign-tested during this election season. And while Harris' presidential campaign failed to live up to its potential, she also knew when to quit and didn't embarrass herself with gaffes in her first national campaign.

The selection of Harris will put California, and the Bay Area in particular, in the spotlight. The daughter of two immigrants, an Indian American mother and a father from Jamaica, Harris was born in Oakland, raised in Berkeley and served as a prosecutor in Alameda County and San Francisco before her election as San Francisco's district attorney and then state attorney general.

President Donald Trump undoubtedly will ramp up his attacks on Harris' native city and state and try to portray her as a left-wing radical. But, as the nation has already found out, Harris is anything but. As her presidential campaign revealed, she is sometimes to a fault cautious in her political approach.

Ironically, her only real breakout during the campaign was her takedown of Biden, when she questioned his record of opposition to busing in the 1970s and '80s and of working in Congress with two segregationist senators.

Biden deserves credit for his willingness to look past the attack and recognize the strength and stability Harris will bring to the ticket.

(c)2020 *The Mercury News* (San Jose, Calif.)

LITERARY NOOK

The World We Live In

By JOANAH JIMENEZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Oh, what a wonderful world we live in!
Hearing chirps and tweets in early morning.
As the warm sun rays caress my rough skin -
The way things were but slowly reforming.

Oh, what an endearing world we live in!
Hearing the birds' melodies disappear.
As Mother Nnature continues to spin,
The once colorful landscape turns drear.

Oh, what a barbaric world we live in!
Hearing gunshots and sirens each morning.
Cold metal on my neck, slowly bleedin' -
The way things are quickly deforming.

The world we live in...violence wins fights.
The world we live in...there's no equal rights.

CALIFORNIA

From Page 10

which could have cost Biden any chance of carrying Florida.

But Bass, who is Black, is a classy, nonpolarizing career-long fighter for civil rights. She chairs the Congressional Black Caucus and was Speaker of the California State Assembly. She's a likable liberal who can deal with conservative Republicans.

Based on polls, the Biden-Harris ticket should win on Nov. 3. That will open up a Senate vacancy that Gov. Gavin Newsom legally can fill on his own—unfortunately—without a vote of the people.

Bass should top Newsom's list of potential new senators.

One bit of trivia: Harris will be the first major vice presidential candidate from California since Richard Nixon in the 1950s. Hopefully that's an irrelevant asterisk.

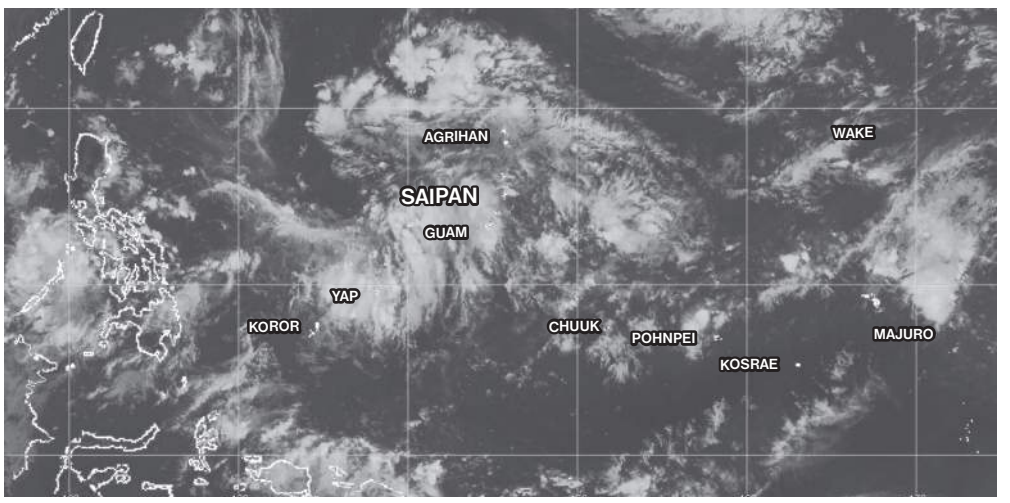
Harris' selection is proof we've all grown a lot since then.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers, becoming mostly cloudy with scattered showers and thunderstorms around noon at Guam.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.
88º 78º	87º 76º	87º 76º	87º 76º	87º 76º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:30 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

AAFB weather radar shows scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south, west and east of the Marianas waters. Isolated showers are indicated within the Marianas waters. The buoys reveal combined seas of 2 to 4 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	4:50 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:02 AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:39 PM
Monday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:10 AM	2:26 PM	-
Saturday	1:58 AM	3:21 PM	-
Sunday	2:52 AM	4:17 PM	-
Monday	3:50 AM	5:13 PM	-
Tuesday	4:50 AM	6:06 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	56° / 44°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	95° / 74°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Sunny	85° / 75°
London	Thunderstorms	77° / 65°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	96° / 74°
Manila	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°
Melbourne	Showers	62° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°
New York	Thunderstorms	85° / 71°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	95° / 82°
Paris	Showers	78° / 62°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Rome	Sunny	92° / 72°
Salem	Thunderstorms	86° / 72°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	76° / 62°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	82° / 76°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	84° / 72°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:14 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.76
9:57 AM	LOW TIDE	0.30
5:30 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.68
10:12 PM	LOW TIDE	1.35

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

CEC appointees appear before Senate

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' appointees to the Commonwealth Elections Commission appeared before the Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations committee on Wednesday to state how they could best assure a fair, honest, and clean election this November.

The governor's nominees are Lelanie I. Manglona for Rota; John D. Attao for Tinian; and Doris Ann A. Atalig and Vicenta A. Rosario for Saipan.

Manglona has served the commission for over a decade and is currently working at the Department of Finance, while Attao is a retired technical sergeant from the U.S. Air Force, with over 32 years of experience in both the U.S. military and the commercial fuel industry. Atalig is an administrative professional with over 20 years of experience, most recent of which is at the Human Resource Office of the University of California-San Diego. Rosario, with over 15 years professional experience, currently serves as a claim examiner at the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency.

In a statement, Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, expressed full trust and confidence in the nominees and that he trusts that the four will "ensure a fair safe, efficient, and honest election process."

Election commissioners serve a term of four years. CEC executive director Julita Villagomez asked the lawmakers to confirm all four nominees so they can "move forward with the general elections."

The nominees were not asked questions at the session but Senate president Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) asked to meet with them later as soon as the nominees are confirmed. "Upon confirmation of your appointments, I would like to call a brief meeting with the members to share some of the sensitive issues to help the director and the working staff navigate the handling of this midterm election process," Hocog said.

"We are all challenged today with our resources [and] I know the election commission will need substantial amount of funding to ensure that the election process is taken care of, most particularly off-island absentees, as well as the chains of election process that were instilled during this pandemic year," Hocog added.

Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), who raised concerns about complaints and allegations of election irregularities every election year, challenged the CEC to ensure that the electoral findings of the Office of the Public Auditor are resolved and not repeated in future elections.

In January, OPA released a report about CEC's lack of accountability on used and unused ballots in the 2018 general elections, and that the commission's lack of standard process for the accounting of the ballots prevents CEC from identifying potential electoral fraud or irregularities.

"There are pending legislations in the Legislature and [I am] glad that the election commissioners have reviewed and are in favor of the proposed legislations, which would make our election process be more transparent, accountable and even effective," the lawmaker added.

Santos also praised the expanded role of women in CEC. "It's great knowing more women are being appointed and taking over critical roles as board [members] and commissioners."

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: August 14, 2020 CLOSING DATE: August 31, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA NO.	Positions:	Salary:
2020-006	RE-ANNOUNCEMENT CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist-Tinian Field Office (1-Position)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00- per annum
2020-007	CDBG-DR Administrative Manager (1-Position)	UNGRADED $50,000.00 to $60,000.00-per annum
2020-008	CDBG-DR Loan Supervisor (1- Position)	UNGRADED $40,000.00 to $45,000.00-per annum
2020-009	CDBG-DR Loan Specialist (4-Positions)	UNGRADED $25,000.00 to $30,000.00-per annum
2020-010	CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist (2-Positions)	UNGRADED $25,0000.00-$30,000.00- per annum
2020-011	Accounting Clerk (1-Position)	$19,294.00-$21,278.40- per annum

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, San Jose; Drop-off application at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 090 D 01 containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is D & W Saipan, Inc. The list of officers for D & W Saipan Inc., are Hyeon Kyu Lee, as President/Director, Ei Sook Kim Lee, as Vice-President/Director, and Sung Soo Lim, as Secretary/Director.

iii. The proposed Extension Agreement and Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of D & W Saipan, Inc., mainly Hyeon Kyu Lee and Sung Soo Lim.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of sales and services of general automotive products, including but not limited to fuel products auto inspection, office, and warehouse space necessary to conduct business and other related purposes.

The term of the proposed lease extension agreement is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed Extension Agreement and Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 21, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA INEKSTENDIN ATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha nå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ña ni para u na ma'atkila palu na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas Siha. I manintiresåo na petsona siha gi halum pupbliku henerål siña muna'na'halum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoñiun kinentra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mås mo'na mapribeniyi ni Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i sigienti na pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimånda ni para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi komu Lot 090 D 01 ni ha kunsisisti i åria gi kåsi guaha 3,000 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Gualo Rai, iya Saipan. I kopian i pumalu managuaha gi Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website www.dpl.gov.mp para rinikonosimientu.

ii. The prospective lessee i D & W Saipan, Inc. I listan ufisiåt siha para D & W Saipan Inc., si Hyeon Kyu Lee, komu Presidenti/Direktot, si Ei Sook Kim Lee, komu Sigundu Presidenti/Direktot, yan si Sung Soo Lim, komu Sekritåriu/Direktot.

iii. I maproponi na Kuntråtan Inekstendin yan Sigundu na Amenda para i Kuntråtan Atkilon ha tåttitiyi i regulasión DPL yan manigosiu ni ufisiåt yan direktot nu i D & W Saipan, Inc., mayotmenti si Hyeon Kyu Lee yan si Sung Soo Lim.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt para atyu ha' na rason nu mambendi yan nu "general automotive products," ingklusu låo ti chi'ña para "fuel products auto inspection," ufisina, o sino "warehouse space" nisisåriu para u makundukta i bisnis yan ottru manasosiåt na rason.

I tema nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon inekstendi sa kinsi (15) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilu gi kada' såkkan gi durântin i teman i kontråtan atkilon mapega gi pusientus nu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i propiu na pusentun i Risibun Hina'halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponi na Kuntråtan Inekstendi yan i Sigundu na Amenda para i Kuntråtan Atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong na sengsong, Luta; pat gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i King's Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia managuaha lokkui' gi online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma'atkila masuhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat tinahguin priniponi ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Agosto 21, 2020 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL SÓBWEEYTÁL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Llól abwungubwungúl fengál me Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer toulap isiis arongorong reel aar itittiw ngáli atkkilóónol ákkáaw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Aramasal toulap ikka re tipáli rebwe isiisilong ischil mángemáng, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommw ikka ra siiweli ngáli atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Alléghúl Toulap 15-2 ebwal ayoorai, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw e ffil ebwe bwal akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap iye re óleghi igha nge Lot 090 D 01 iye e bwáá bwe 3,000 square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél. Pappidil bwuléy eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website www.dpl.gov.mp reel ubwe amwuri.

ii. Prospective lessee nge D & W Saipan, Inc. List-al officers ngáli D & W Saipan Inc., nge Hyeon Kyu Lee, bwe President/Director, Ei Sook Kim Lee, bwe Vice-President/Director, me Sung Soo Lim, bwe Sekkretóóriyo/Director.

iii. Pommwol Abwungubwung iye e Láálááyló me Aruwooowal Liiwel ngáli Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge e tipifool fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e ppwolsángi officers me directors-il D & W Saipan, Inc., spesiatemente Hyeon Kyu Lee me Sung Soo Lim.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá bwuléy ngáli akkaméélól me angaangil "general automotive products", e bwal schuulong nge ese mwutch ngáli "fuel products auto inspection", bwulasiyo, me "warehouse space" iye e ffil ngáli rebwe ffééru mwóghutughutúl "business" me ákkáaw mwóghut ikka e toolong.

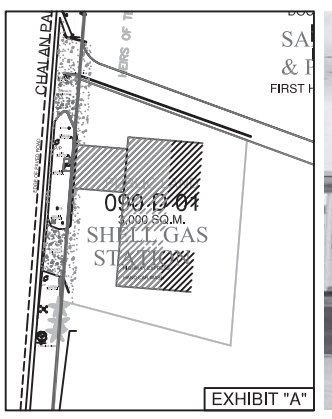
Pommwol abwungubwungúl láálááyil atkkilóón nge seigh me limoow ráágh.

pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúw ebwal schuulong "applicable percentage" reel "Business gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol Láálááyil Abwungubwung me Aruwoowal Liiwel ngáli Pommwol Atkkilóón emmwelil ubwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, Sóóbwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommwol siiwel ngáli faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay me Gualo Rai, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angiingi ngáre pommwol siiwel sángi schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong wóól ngáre mmwalil Elúwel 21, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. DIANA M. QUIITUGUA, Defendant.	Civil Action No. 10-0261 SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 20th day of September, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **24th day of September, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 326 R 14, (part of Lot 326 R 13, which was part of Lot 326 R 08, part Lot 316 R 02, part original Lot 316 R 01), containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 326 R 00, the original of which recorded on June 2, 1998 as Document No. 98-1643 at Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing or by email with full name and complete signature to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com.
5. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Bidders are to contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property is being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 3rd day of August, 2020.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff, MPLT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: LILY A HOCOG, Deceased.	Civil Action No. 11-0197 NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Order Granting MPLT's Second Petition to Sell Real Property Secured by Mortgaged to Satisfy MPLT's Claim against the Estate entered in the above titled action on July 02, 2020, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust from Descendant Lily A. Hocog. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **September 24, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.,** at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room in Capital Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 330 R 035, containing an area of 859 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Land and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 330 R 02 dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-858, dated March 16, 1992, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public
2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
   b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
5. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to the Marianas Public Land Trust.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 29th day of July, 2020.

/s/
ROBERT T. TORRES, F0197
Auctioneer

Primo D. Jebehn
P.O. Box 504844
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 789-4982

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of: S.B. R. R. A. R. R. R. Minor Child Primo Dismas Jebehn Petitioner	FCD-AD-CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-0206 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on August 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom MBP, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 14th day of July, 2020.

Clerk of Court
/s/
Deputy Clerk of Court

Business

PAD THAI RESTAURANT: Thai meals below $9

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrersaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Pad Thai located at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai serves Thai meals from various food choices below $9. Owner George Hanes and his wife, Panapuk, opened the doors of the restaurant last month with the goal of serving Thai dishes with the taste and feel of home-made goodness at reasonable prices.

"We understand that it is not an easy time but we want to be here to serve for the community for the long haul and serve high quality Thai food yet still down to earth that will give you a sense that it is home-made because it was carefully prepared. We made it a point that our dishes be reasonably priced so that even during these times, locals can afford to come in," George Hanes said.

For more information, call (670) 233-0011

"My wife is originally from Isaan, Thailand and that province is known for their red spicy chilis that is a part of their dishes…But the food that we serve at the restaurant are tailored for general consumption. We can make it really spicy if requested," he added.

Pad Thai Restaurant prepares six to seven food choices every day. From 11am to 2pm, they offer "choice menu" where customers can pick viands in three different options and all come with soup and rice. An entrée is $4.50, two entrees go for $4.50, and three entrees go for $8.50.

They also serve *a la carte* menu that customers can order for take-out or dine-in such as fresh spring rolls, shrimp with basil, spicy chicken, green and red curry, Thai seafood papaya salad, chicken and pork panang, and more. Thai milk tea, green tea milk, and Thai pink milk, which uses fresh dragon fruit, are also available.

"We also do catering, private functions such as corporate or family party in accordance with COVID-19 regulations…We are Level Blue-compliant, our food handlers are licensed by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Bureau of Environmental Health, we have markers on the floor, tables are 6 feet apart, we have hand sanitizers, and ask dine-in customers to sign in," George Hanes said.

"My wife's specialties are dishes that people really like such as the coconut chicken soup, pad Thai to name a few. We also like getting local products like fresh fish and my wife makes special tom yum soup out of that," George Hanes added,

Despite of the pandemic, George Hanes hopes to continue the business and give the community good food without breaking their wallets. "If we can survive and we're able to open at this time, then we can certainly open in a better economy… we are in a good location here at Springs Plaza where there are government offices and private offices surrounding us and so far we have seen new faces and repeat customers almost every day," he said.

"We certainly appreciate the business. We appreciate the island because people know we are open through recommendations on Facebook and word of mouth. We are really happy," George Hanes added.

Pad Thai Restaurant is open from Monday to Friday, 11pm-7pm. For more information, call (670) 233-0011 or look them up on Facebook.

BEA CABRERA

Pad Thai owner George Hanes opened the business in July amid the pandemic.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nam tok pork is one of the staple dishes at Pad Thai.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Choice menu which they serve from 11am to 2 pm always comes with rice and soup. Dishes are best enjoyed with Panapuk Hanes' home made sauces.

US budget deficit climbs to record $2.81 trillion

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP)—The U.S. budget deficit climbed to $2.81 trillion in the first 10 months of the budget year, exceeding any on record, the Treasury Department said Wednesday.

The nation's budgetary shortfall is expected to eventually reach levels for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30 more than double the largest annual deficit on record.

The federal government rang up a $63 billion deficit in July, the department reported. That's a relatively modest amount compared to red ink that spilled in the spring months when the government tried to revive an economy that all but ground to a halt due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Last month's deficit was sharply lower than June's $864 billion, in part because the government collected a record amount tax revenue in July—$563 billion—after extending the filing deadline to July 15. That extension allowed Americans more time to sort through the economic havoc wrought by the pandemic.

Outlays to the Small Business Administration, which doled out $511 billion as part of the Paycheck Protection Program in June, fell to about $26 billion in July.

SAIPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8 | LAO LAO BAY GOLF & RESORT

LOW GROSS 1ST PLACE

Jin, Feng Chun & Park, Joung Hoon

DOUBLE PEORIA 1ST PLACE

Villanueva, Shayne & Peter, Marco

OPTIONAL PLAY CONTEST WINNERS

Island Training Solution Hole #6
Aggresive Drive: Jin, Feng Chun at 43 ft!

Hole #3 Closest to the Pin (KP)
Roy Ada at 41 inches!

IT&E Hole # 13 Closest to the Pin
Yoo, Soon Ja at 66 inches!

Mobil Oil Hole # 13 Closest to the Pin
Sebastian Camacho with 18.5 inches!

State Board of Education, Janice A Tenorio Hole # 17
Joe Tudela at 44 inches!

LOW GROSS CATEGORY WINNERS

1ST PLACE - $800
Jin, Feng Chun/ Park, Joung Hoon
(Score:61)

2ND PLACE - $650
Lim, Sung Soo/ Kim, Ki Young
(Score: 63)

3RD PLACE - $500
Kang, Sun Ho/ Lee, Young Woo
(Score: 63)

DOUBLE PEORIA CATEGORY WINNERS

1ST PLACE - $800
Villanueva, Shayne/ Peter, Marco
(Score: 68.20)

2ND PLACE - $650
Nakamura, harry/ Tilipao, Louie
(Score: 68.60)

3RD PLACE - $500
Kaipat, Paul/ Reyes, Nick
(Score: 68.60)

GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE WINNER
TONY SATUR!

THANK YOU 2020 SPONSORS

TRIPLE J MOTORS — NEW CARS • USED CARS • PARTS • SERVICE
Joeten Motors — POWERED BY YOU
AB Risk Solutions
Matson Navigation Company
Mobil™
Michelob ULTRA
ITS
IT&E
JANICE A. TENORIO, M.ED — CHAIRPERSON
CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Kautz Glass company — GLASS & ALUMINUM PRODUCTS SALES & SERVICE GLAZING CONTRACTORS & ALUMINUM FABRICATORS — UFA ST. LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, MP 96950 — TEL.: 322-9282 FAX.: 322-1709 — SERVING SAIPAN, ROTA, TINIAN
PAUL T. MIURA — BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER
hive analytics
ANDREW ORSINI — BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER
First Hawaiian Bank.
DR. ALFRED ADA — PSS COMMISSIONER
Marianas Variety — MICRONESIA'S LEADING NEWSPAPER SINCE 1972
UNITED AIRLINES
American Red Cross
the SHACK
J.C. TENORIO ENTERPRISES INCORPORATED
NAKED FISH
Terry'N Bolts
StayWell
Coca-Cola
R&J
SAIPAN SNAPS
i'm lovin' it
HERMAN'S
GALLERIA
D&Q International Distributors
mina — Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance
GALAXY II SNACK BAR
POWER 99
CALVO'S insurance
Tan Siu Lin Foundation
pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.
FOREMOST — Part of your life.
LAO LAO BAY GOLF & RESORT
Saipan Tribune

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CNMI ROTARACT, FUTURE MARINES FROM PERMANENT CONTACT STATION & OUR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS!

Nation

‘Impossible’: School boards are at heart of reopening debate

ROCK HILL, S.C. (AP)— Helena Miller listened to teachers, terrified to reenter classrooms, and parents, exhausted from trying to make virtual learning work at home. She heard from school officials who spent hundreds of hours on thousands of details — buses, classrooms, football, arts, special education. She spent countless nights, eyes wide open, her mind wrestling over the safety and education of the 17,000 children she swore to protect.

She thought of her own kids, two in high school and one middle-schooler — the reasons she ran for Rock Hill’s school board six years ago.

And she made the hardest decision of her life: a vote to reopen schools amid the coronavirus pandemic, splitting students into two groups that would each spend two days a week in classrooms, with virtual learning the other school days.

“We have an impossible decision to make. And we still have to make it,” Miller said from a tiny box on Zoom at the board’s July meeting.

This Board of Trustees in suburban South Carolina is like thousands of school boards nationwide, where members are tackling a simple but hefty question — do we return to school amid a pandemic? — with no right or even good answers, in the face of inconsistent testing and a near-constant increase in confirmed coronavirus cases.

Behind that question is pressure. Pressure from teachers and bus drivers and janitors, scared to return to work but in need of a paycheck. Pressure from parents and guardians, who need to return to their own jobs but fear for their children’s safety. Pressure from a president who declares on Twitter “OPEN THE SCHOOLS!!!” but whose administration provides little tangible guidance for doing so.

In Rock Hill, everyone has an opinion. The district has more than 17,000 students, and that means about 17,000 proposals on how to go back to school, trustees say, only half-joking.

And in South Carolina, with some of the country’s worst virus numbers, even state leaders can’t agree. Gov. Henry McMaster contradicted his education superintendent and said schools must allow a five-days-a-week option for working parents. School boards were left to untangle the mess - Rock Hill called an emergency meeting and ultimately kept its staggered plan.

There’s been plenty more to resolve: Should classes be delayed until after Labor Day? How do kids get to school with buses at half-capacity for social distancing? What about masks and protective equipment? Should students have drama or orchestra if there are no public performances? What will student athletes do in a place like Rock Hill, known for sending football stars Jadeveon Clowney and Stephon Gilmore to the NFL?

School boards represent democracy at its local core: the backbone of communities, a check on superintendents, and the most direct way to influence education policy. And Rock Hill’s strategy was very democratic. The board officially listened to eight committees, some made up of dozens of parents and business or community leaders. Each member spent dozens of hours in emails and informal discussions with people in and around their city of about 75,000 people.

Biden, Harris lash Trump at debut of historic VP choice

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Joe Biden and Kamala Harris pushed past their one-time political rivalry Wednesday to deliver an aggressive attack on the character and performance of President Donald Trump in their historic first appearance as running mates.

The physical debut of the Democratic ticket was without parallel in recent political annals. The coronavirus prevented Biden and Harris from appearing before the large, adoring crowd that typically greets a presidential nominee and his or her running mate. Instead, they spoke in a mostly empty high school gym where reporters nearly outnumbered campaign aides and the candidates’ family members.

While the pandemic made a traditional campaign rollout impossible, it gave Biden and Harris a setting to emphasize their criticism of Trump as unable to contend with the most severe public health crisis in a century. Harris was particularly sharp in her condemnation of the administration.

“The case against Donald Trump and Mike Pence is open and shut,” Harris said. “This virus has impacted almost every country. But there’s a reason it has hit America worse than any other advanced nation. It’s because of Trump’s failure to take it seriously from the start.”

She added: “This is what happens when we elect a guy who just isn’t up for the job.”

Harris is the first Black woman on a major party’s presidential ticket, and she and Biden noted the historical significance.

“This morning, all across the nation, little girls woke up —especially little black and brown girls, who so often feel overlooked and undervalued in their communities. But today, today, just maybe, they’re seeing themselves for the first time in a new way,” Biden said.

Harris, who is also of South Asian descent, noted the “heroic and ambitious women before me, whose sacrifice, determination and resilience make my presence here today even possible.”

For his part, Trump has struggled to land on a coherent message about the Biden-Harris ticket, casting the Democrats as simultaneously too liberal for America and yet not progressive enough for their party’s base. Trump has resorted to sexist and racist criticism, referring to Harris as “nasty” and tweeting that “the ‘suburban housewife’ will be voting for me” to keep neighborhoods safe.

He also noted the two Democrats’ disagreements during the primary campaign last year.

“She said horrible things about him,” Trump said Wednesday. “She mocked him, openly mocked him. That’s why I thought that was a very risky pick. Because I’m sure that will be played back.”

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of August 14, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Soledad Francesca B. Camacho & Dr. Ahmad Al-Alou	07/15/2020 SS-2020-X-058	Two Storey Commercial Building with Penthouse	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	On Hold*
2. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation	07/23/2020 SW-2020-X-060	W-6 Sewer Line Lift Station Elimination	Chalan Kiya, Saipan	Wetland	Approved* 07/28/2020
3. Micronesia Resort Inc. dba Kensington Hotel Saipan	07/24/2020 SSm-2020-X-061	Aqua Park Repairs & Maintenanc	San Roque, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 08/07/2020
4. Hyung Joon Chung	08/03/2020 SPI-2020-X-064	Two-Story Single Family Dwelling	Sadog Tasi, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 08/11/2020
5. Lotus Homes, LLC	08/06/2020 SMS-2020-X-065	Four-Story Apartment Complex	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	Application Under Review*
6. Marianas Visitors Authority	08/10/2020 SSCHm-2020-X-066	Beach Road Beautification	San Jose, Saipan	Shoreline, Coastal Hazard	Approved* 08/12/2020
7. Leo Liu dba Tinian Real Estate Development, LLC	08/10/2020 TMS-2020-X-067	Tinian Ocean Resort Condominium	Carolinas, Tinian	Major Siting	Application Under Review*
8. CNMI Indigenous Affairs Office	08/11/2020 SSm-2019-X-056, Amendment 2020-1	Chamorro Thatch House	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved 08/12/2020
9. Office of the Governor, CNMI Office of Grants Management	08/11/2020 SSCHm-2020-X-068	Installation of New Structures (Pre-Fabricated Picnic Tables)	Various Locations on Saipan	Shoreline, Coastal Hazard	Approved* 08/12/2020
10. Marianas Visitors Authority	08/12/2020 SSm-2020-X-069	Forbidden Island Lookout Repairs & Maintenance	Kagman, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 08/12/2020
11. Marianas Visitors Authority	08/12/2020 SSm-2020-X-070	Obyan Beach Repairs & Maintenance	Obyan Beach Park, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 08/12/2020
12. Marianas Visitors Authority	08/12/2020 SSm-2020-X-071	Banzai Cliff Repairs & Maintenance	Marpi, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 08/12/2020
13. Marianas Visitors Authority	08/12/2020 SSm-2020-X-072	Ladder Beach Repairs & Maintenance	Ladder Beach Area, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 08/12/2020
14. Marianas Visitors Authority	08/12/2020 SSm-2020-X-073	Grotto Maintenance & Repairs Maintenance	Marpi, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 08/12/2020
15. Marianas Visitors Authority	08/12/2020 SSWm-2020-X-074	Bird Island Lookout Repairs & Maintenance	Marpi, Saipan	Shoreline, Wetland	Approved* 08/12/2020
16. World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort	08/12/2020 SSm-2020-X-075	Demolition of Concrete Tables	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Asia

Victoria adds 21 deaths, Singapore clears dorms

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—The Australian state of Victoria on Wednesday reported a record 21 virus deaths and 410 new cases from an outbreak in the city of Melbourne that has prompted a strict lockdown.

State Premier Daniel Andrews said 16 of the deaths were linked to aged-care facilities. The number of new cases in Victoria is down from the peak, giving authorities some hope the outbreak is waning.

Meanwhile, three Melbourne students were fined after posting social media videos showing them breaching nighttime curfews for a McDonald's run, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

The five-minute video, since deleted, showed the students walking through alleys, dodging police officers and dancing inside the restaurant, ABC said.

Victoria police confirmed each student was fined 1,652 Australian dollars ($1,178).

The state of New South Wales on Wednesday reported 18 new cases, including two connected with a private school cluster in Sydney.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■]Health authorities in New Zealand were scrambling to trace the source of a new outbreak as the nation's largest city went back into lockdown. The four cases reported from one Auckland household are New Zealand's first locally transmitted cases in 102 days. The 22 others were in mandatory quarantine after returning from travel abroad. Two of the infected people had visited the tourist city of Rotorua last weekend while suffering symptoms, and authorities were trying to track their movements.

■ India's coronavirus caseload topped 2.3 million after adding 60,963 new cases in the last 24 hours. India also reported 834 deaths on Wednesday, bringing its death toll to 46,091. India has the third-highest caseload after the United States and Brazil, but only the fifth-highest death toll, and authorities say the fatality rate has dropped below 2% for the first time. Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged leaders of 10 states that account for about 80% of India's total cases to rigorously apply containment, surveillance and contact tracing to drive the fatality rate below 1%. Modi also urged that testing be ramped up in several states.

■ Singapore's government says most foreign workers can now resume work as their dormitories have been cleared of COVID-19 after months of lockdown and virus testing. People living in the crowded dormitories comprised the bulk of Singapore's 55,353 cases. Only 27 deaths have been recorded in the tiny island-state. The Ministry of Manpower said late Tuesday that all the dormitories have been cleared except for 17 standalone blocks which serve as quarantine facilities. It said all foreign workers living in these dormitories have either recovered or have tested virus-free, except for 22,500 workers in isolation. It said the majority are now able to return to work including 81% of the total 387,000 workers in the construction, marine shipyard and process industries.

■ South Korea reported 54 new cases of COVID-19 as health authorities scramble to stem transmissions amid increased social and leisure activities. The figures announced by South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention brought the total cases to 14,714, including 305 deaths. The center says 35 of the new cases were local transmissions, all but three from the Seoul area. The other 19 cases were linked to international arrivals. Health authorities see those as less threatening to the community since people arriving from abroad face mandatory tests and two-week quarantines.

■ China's new domestic coronavirus cases fell into the single digits on Wednesday, while Hong Kong reported just 33 new cases. The National Health Commission said all nine new cases were found in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, whose capital Urumqi has been at the center of China's latest major outbreak. Another 25 cases were brought by Chinese travelers arriving from abroad. Densely populated Hong Kong also recorded another six deaths to bring its total to 58 fatalities among 4,181 cases. Authorities have ordered mask wearing in public settings, restrictions on indoor dining and other social distancing measures in a bid to stem the latest outbreak.

■ A city government in China has donated 40,000 medical-grade face masks to Maryland's capital city amid the coronavirus pandemic. The donation from Changsha, China, was first offered to Annapolis city officials in April, when the need for masks among public safety workers was high in the beginning days of the pandemic, Annapolis City Manager David Jarrell said in a statement. The two municipalities are sister cities. The masks arrived this month, with one of the boxes featuring stickers of American and Chinese flags with a message reading: "Go, City of Annapolis! Best Wishes from Changsha! True unity inspires people to work as one to overcome adversity," The Capital Gazette newspaper reported. A note from Yani Xia, a representative of the Chinese city's Foreign Affairs Office, accompanied the shipment. "We sincerely wish you and everyone in Annapolis continued good health, and the fortitude to persevere during this challenging period," it read. Annapolis' relationship with Changsha began under a former city administrator, according to Jarrell's statement.

3 killed in southern India in clashes over Facebook post

NEW DELHI (AP)—At least three people were killed in the southern Indian city of Bengaluru when police clashed with hundreds of Muslims who attacked a police station and set fire to vehicles during a protest over a Facebook post considered offensive to Islam, police said Wednesday.

Senior police officer Kamal Pant said the protesters burned public and police vehicles and attacked the house of a local politician whose relative was accused of posting remarks online reportedly involving the Prophet Muhammad. The post has since been deleted, he said.

"Three people died in the police action and more than 110 people have been arrested for attacking the police station," Pant said. He said at least 60 police officers were injured in the violence Tuesday night in Bengaluru, also known as Bangalore.

He said police fired live ammunition in self defense to disperse the crowd after initially using tear gas and batons.

Pant said the person responsible for the Facebook post was arrested and a law prohibiting gatherings was imposed in the city, with a heavy police presence in some areas.

"Things are peaceful now," he said.

The violence flared when angry Muslims came out on the streets and started protesting outside the politician's house and a police station. The protesters turned violent, stoning vehicles and setting them on fire.

B.S. Yediyurappa, chief minister of Karnataka state, of which Bengaluru is the capital, directed police to take strict action against those involved in the protest and appealed to the public to maintain peace.

"The government will not tolerate such provocations and rumors," Yediyurappa said.

China blasts US for Taiwan visit while virus spreads at home

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese official lashed out at U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar on Wednesday for visiting Taiwan amid an ongoing pandemic back home, accusing him of putting politics ahead of the lives of the American people.

The comments came a day after Azar accused China of failing to warn the rest of the world about the coronavirus.

"He abandoned the millions of people who are struggling with illness and visited Taiwan instead to stage a political show," Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a daily briefing. "We don't know how he has the confidence and courage to shamelessly criticize China's anti-epidemic achievements."

Speaking Tuesday in Taiwan, Azar said that China's ruling Communist Party "had the chance to warn the world and work with the world on battling the virus."

"But they chose not to, and the costs of that choice mount higher every day," he said.

The Trump administration has repeatedly accused China of withholding information from the World Health Organization and the international community as the virus began to take hold. China denies the charge, saying it communicated information as soon as it had it.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

Lydia Maria Finona Duenas Igitol

We, the family of the late †Lydia Maria Finona Duenas Igitol wish to extend our most humble and sincere gratitude to all our family and friends for the tremendous outpouring of sympathy, love, prayers, and generosity shown during the passing of our beloved †Lydia.

We thank Rev. Fr. Jayferson Baldelovar, Rev. Fr. Neil Bullos, St. Remedies Parish, St. Jude Thaddaeus Choir, staff of Marianas Visiting Nurses; doctors, nurses and ancillary staff of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, EMT staff of the Department of Fire & Emergency Management Services, Borja Funeral Services, and many others who, in their own special way, assisted us during our time of sorrow.

We especially thank our immediate family and friends abroad, who were unable to travel but joined us in daily prayers and offered mass of intention for our beloved †Lydia..

Special thank you to our techa, Mrs. Valerie K. Malwelbug.

We truly appreciate you all. We are eternally grateful.
God Bless You All.

Ghilisow, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank you.

David L. Igitol, Children & Family

World

UN chief: Pandemic threatens peace and risks new conflicts

AP

In this image made from video released by the U.S. military's Central Command, Iranian commandos fast-rope down from a helicopter onto the MV Wila oil tanker in the Gulf of Oman off the coast of the United Arab Emirates on Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Wednesday that the COVID-19 pandemic not only threatens gains in fighting global poverty and building peace but risks exacerbating existing conflicts and generating new ones.

The U.N. chief told a Security Council meeting on the challenge of sustaining peace during the pandemic that his March 23 call for an immediate cease-fire in conflicts around the world to tackle the coronavirus led a number of warring parties to take steps to de-escalate and stop fighting.

"Yet, regrettably, in many instances, the pandemic did not move the parties to suspend hostilities or agree to a permanent ceasefire," Guterres said.

His predecessor as secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon, told the council: "It is truly astonishing that in response to this pandemic, the world has placed billions of people under lock-down, closed international borders, suspended trade and migration, and temporarily shut down a whole variety of industries – but has not managed to suspend armed conflicts."

Ban criticized the U.N. Security Council for wasting valuable months "in arguments over the details of the text" and not adopting a resolution until July 1 demanding an "immediate cessation of hostilities" in key conflicts including Syria, Yemen, Libya, South Sudan and Congo to tackle COVID-19.

"This has weakened the message that this council needs to send to all warring parties: now is the time to confront our common enemy," Ban said.

And he said delayed council action "further aggravated the current volatile global security situations."

"The impact of COVID-19 on conflict-affected settings has been much worse than initially thought," said Ban, who is a co-chair of the group of prominent world leaders founded by Nelson Mandela known as The Elders.

He pointed to health and humanitarian ramifications, social cohesion, governance, the rule of law and threats to multilateralism which are jeopardizing ongoing efforts to sustain peace, "or may even cause a reversal in hard-won peace and security gains to date."

While governments try to confront the pandemic, some groups have seen an opportunity to ramp up violence, Ban said, citing as examples Boko Haram and other militants in Nigeria, growing mob violence in Congo and murders by drug cartels in Mexico.

He also warned that the economic impacts of the pandemic "will be both long-lasting and severe, with ripple effects for many fragile and conflict-affected states."

As examples, Ban said Lebanon's political and economic crisis, exacerbated by last week's deadly explosion at Beirut's port, is being compounded by COVID-19's impact on two key money-earners, tourism and trade, while Iraq's budget is being stretched thin because of the collapse in oil prices.

Secretary-General Guterres said the pandemic has raised growing questions about the effectiveness of health systems, social services, trust in institutions and systems of governance.

"All of this means that our commitment to sustaining peace is more urgent than ever," he said.

Guterres pointed to three key dangers: erosion of public trust, destabilization of the global economic order, and weakening of "the social fabric."

"The perception that authorities are mishandling the crisis, or not being transparent or favoring political allies can lead to public disillusion in government and its institutions," he said.

The U.N. chief also warned that "without concerted action, inequalities, global poverty and the potential for instability and violence could grow for years."

While there have been many peaceful protests, Guterres said, "in a number of countries, COVID-19 has been an excuse for harsh crackdowns and a spike in state repression."

Guterres stressed tbe importance of leadership.

"The world is looking to all leaders—including the council—to address this epic crisis in ways that make a concrete, meaningful and positive contribution to the lives of people," he said.

Guterres called for all sectors of society to engage in building peace and preventing and ending conflicts.

US says Iran briefly seizes oil tanker near Strait of Hormuz

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The Iranian navy boarded and briefly seized a Liberian-flagged oil tanker near the strategic Strait of Hormuz amid heightened tensions between Tehran and the U.S., a U.S. military official said Thursday.

The U.S. military's Central Command published a black-and-white video showing what appeared to be special forces fast-roping down from a helicopter onto the MV Wila, whose last position appeared to be off the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates near the city of Khorfakkan.

The Iranian navy held the vessel for some five hours before releasing it Wednesday, said a U.S. military official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet made public. The Wila made no distress calls before, during and after the seizure, the official said.

The Iranian helicopter involved appeared to be a Sikorsky SH-3 Sea King, which only Iran's navy operates. The Iranian navy also handles all operations in the Gulf of Oman on the eastern side of the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of all oil traded passes.

The U.S. military officials did not offer any reason for Iran seizing the vessel. Iranian state media and officials did not immediately acknowledge the seizure or offer a reason for it.

Officials in the UAE, a U.S.-allied federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula, did not respond to a request for comment.

As tensions between Iran and the U.S. heated up last year over America's unilateral withdraw from its 2015 nuclear deal, tankers plying the waters of the Mideast became targets, particularly near the strait, the Persian Gulf's narrow mouth. Suspected limpet mine attacks the U.S. blamed on Iran targeted several tankers. Iran denied being involved, though it did seize several tankers.

In July, a U.S.-sought oil tanker was "hijacked" off the coast of the United Arab Emirates after allegedly smuggling Iranian crude oil. The vessel later ended up back in Iranian waters, suggesting Iran itself seized the vessel.

Thousands in Belarus decry president's reelection as rigged

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—Thousands of protesters rallied in Belarus' capital and other cities for a fourth straight night Wednesday, decrying an election they say was rigged to extend the 26-year rule of the country's authoritarian leader and the crackdown on subsequent demonstrations.

In several parts of Minsk, groups of hundreds of people formed human chains. Motorists blared horns in support and, in some areas, slowed to a crawl to block police vehicles. On one avenue, people stood on balconies, clapping in an expression of support. Riot police fired rubber bullets at them.

Similar protests were held in at least five other cities, according to the Viasna rights group, to contest the official election results, which show President Alexander Lukashenko won a sixth term with 80% of Sunday's vote and the main opposition challenger garnered 10%. Crowds have taken to the streets every night since to demand a recount.

Earlier in the day, groups of hundreds of women formed human chains in several districts of Minsk, chanting "Shame!" and calling for an end to the crackdown on the demonstrations. Hesitant to use force against all-women rallies, police dispersed them without violence.

But in recent nights, authorities have responded with a level of brutality remarkable even during Lukashenko's rule. Police have dispersed protesters with tear gas, stun grenades, water cannons and rubber bullets and severely beat them with truncheons. Black-uniformed officers chased protesters into residential buildings and deliberately targeted journalists, beating many and breaking their cameras.

"We stand for a peaceful protest," said Ksenia Ilyashevich, a 23-year-old IT specialist who joined other women at a Minsk protest earlier Wednesday. "We worked up the courage and came out to rally. We stand here for all."

In three previous nights of protests, at least 6,000 people have been detained and hundreds injured, according to the official count, but even that high toll appeared to downplay the scope. Anguished relatives were besieging prisons across Belarus trying to find their missing relatives.

"Even those who were loyal saw the real face of this government during the past three days," said 63-year-old Galina Vitushko, who stood outside a jail in Minsk, trying to find her son, a 43-year old doctor. She said that she desperately needs to give him insulin since he has diabetes.

"How can you treat your own people like that?" she asked, breaking into tears. "The real winners don't behave like that."

The 65-year-old Lukashenko has led the former Soviet state of 9.5 million people since 1994, relentlessly stifling dissent and winning the nickname "Europe's last dictator" in the West.

This year, the economic damage caused by the coronavirus and the president's swaggering response to the pandemic, which he airily dismissed as "psychosis," has fueled broad anger, helping swell the opposition ranks—but Lukashenko has dismissed them.

"The core of these so-called protesters are people with a criminal past and (those who are) currently unemployed," Lukashenko said during a Wednesday meeting with security officials.

2019 International Coastal Cleanup CNMI

1,617
volunteers participated

9,427 lbs.
of trash collected

76
locations cleaned

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Saturday SEPTEMBER 19

Harnessing the Power of People to Fight Ocean Pollution

Locally led by the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM), the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is the world's largest single-day cleanup event with the goal of collecting and documenting trash littering our coastlines and waterways. Volunteers from states and territories throughout the U.S. and over 100 countries worldwide come together every year and participate in the cleanup event near them. The two layers of science and community service is what distinguishes the ICC from everyday cleanups. The data collected during the ICC is entered into Ocean Conservancy's Global Trash Database and is crucial to solving the world's ocean pollution problem.

Participants will adopt a location (beach, community area, or roadside) and are asked to tally data while collecting debris. Supplies, including trash bags, gloves, and data sheets, can be provided upon request. Trash hauling and disposal will be taken care of by DCRM, with assistance from the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (MINA).

We would like to remind the public to practice proper social distancing and hand hygiene while participating in this year's cleanup event. Although DCRM is unable to provide face masks, we would like to encourage all participants to take precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of our volunteers.

SIGN UP TODAY AT www.dcrm.gov.mp

For more information, contact the ICC Coordinator
Colleen Flores
cflores@dcrm.gov.mp
(670) 664-8300 / 8316

mina Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO GO DIRECTLY TO DCRM'S WEBSITE!

Scan me

Off The Wall

Eye candy: More than 50,000 pink flamingos mass in France

PARIS (AP)—Behold a treat for the eyes! Tens of thousands of pink flamingos have amassed in the wetlands of southern France along with their offspring still lacking flamboyant plumage.

The long-legged birds resembling ballerinas in tutus have long drawn tourists to the marshes in the Camargue region that has served as France's salt mine since Roman times. But the numbers of pink flamingos this year may be the highest since experts began keeping records 45 years ago, said Thierry Marmol, the guardian of the vast ecosystem.

France's two months of strict confinement to contain the coronavirus may well be the reason.

Experts relying on aerial photos estimated that 25,000 flamingo couples, or 50,000 adult birds, settled in the area this year, Marmol said. About 12,000 babies were counted. "That's historic," he said, stressing that little ones are hard to count.

"Maybe the confinement helped to make a good year," Marmol said. "It's obvious that with confinement there were no disturbances. There were no airplanes, no noise at all."

It's still too soon to confirm that the anti-virus lockdown was a factor in what he said is "one of the best four years of all time" for pink flamingos in the Salins.

Marmol has watched over 8,000 hectares (19,700 acres) around the commune of Aigues-Mortes for the past 35 years, living on the land "like a trapper in America."

He is a keen observer of the birds, fauna and flora that draw ornithologists and other experts for field work. This year's bumper crop of pink flamingos is a treat even for him.

The Salins, with its especially salty water, also supplies France with tons of salt. Aigues-Mortes is about 50 kilometers (about 30 miles) from Arles, the closest large town.

Flamingo experts spent some three hours Wednesday fitting 320 baby birds with two bands - one plastic, one metal - so scientists can track their migration.

When autumn arrives, many will be migrating to warmer weather in Spain, Italy, Turkey or North Africa. The bands are "like a license plate," Marmol said. The plastic band allows ornithologists to spot them with binoculars or a telescope. The information is relayed to scientists tracking the birds in centers around the world. Each country uses a designated color for the bands.

AP

In this Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020 photo provided by Salins de Camargue, flamingo experts walk in the waters, in Aigues-Mortes, the Camargue region, southern France, to gather and put bands on baby birds so scientists can track their migration.

Luckily for pink flamingo aficionados, about half will choose to stay behind. Who knows why?

Babies must wait for their plumes to grow. Adults and others ready to take off may decide the coming winter won't be cold so "they take their chance and stay," Marmol said.

He recalled France's very cold winter of 2003, when thousands of pink flamingos were found dead.

"They made a bad choice that year," Marmol said.

Israeli jeweler makes $1.5m gold coronavirus mask

MOTZA, Israel (AP)—An Israeli jewelry company is working on what it says will be the world's most expensive coronavirus mask, a gold, diamond-encrusted face covering with a price tag of $1.5 million.

The 18-karat white gold mask will be decorated with 3,600 white and black diamonds and fitted with top-rated N99 filters at the request of the buyer, said designer Isaac Levy.

Levy, owner of the Yvel company, said the buyer had two other demands: that it be completed by the end of the year, and that it would be the priciest in the world. That last condition, he said, "was the easiest to fulfill."

He declined to identify the buyer, but said he was a Chinese businessman living in the United States.

The glitzed-up face mask may lend some pizzazz to the protective gear now mandatory in public spaces in many countries. But at 270 grams (over half a pound)—nearly 100 times that of a typical surgical mask—it is not likely to be a practical accessory to wear.

In an interview at his factory near Jerusalem, Levy showed off several pieces of the mask, covered in diamonds. One gold plate had a hole for the filter.

"Money maybe doesn't buy everything, but if it can buy a very expensive COVID-19 mask and the guy wants to wear it and walk around and get the attention, he should be happy with that," Levy said.

'Chief mouser' Palmerston retires as UK's top diplomatic cat

LONDON (AP)—Time spent in lockdown was just superb for Palmerston, the chief mouser at the U.K. Foreign Office.

It was so good, in fact, that the cat has decided to leave sorting out international affairs to the human diplomats and retire to the countryside after four long, hard years on the job.

Palmerston made it official in a letter sent in his name to Simon McDonald, the office's permanent under-secretary, which explained that he wanted more time "away from the limelight."

"I have found life away from the front line relaxed, quieter, and easier," a letter signed with two paw prints said. It was posted on Twitter.

AP

In this file photo dated Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, Palmerston, the Foreign Office cat sits on a photographer›s ladder at Downing Street in London.

Palmerston, who is named after the longest-serving British Foreign Secretary, Lord Palmerston, arrived in April 2016 as a rescue cat. He had plenty of company, though sometimes less than smooth diplomatic relations with Larry, cat-in-residence at nearby 10 Downing Street. The two were sometimes seen fighting in the street outside the British prime minister's home.

The letter from Palmerston, or @DiploMog' as he is known on Twitter, said his service showed that "even those with four legs and fur have an important part to play in the U.K.'s global effort."

"I have been delighted to meet representatives from all over the world, and I hope I have done you proud in putting the U.K.'s best foot or paw forward in such interaction," the letter said.

His colleagues said he would be missed.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

German nudist chases down boar who snatched his laptop

BERLIN (AP)—A German nudist had the last laugh after giving chase to a wild boar that had run off with a bag containing his laptop. Pictures posted on social media show the naked man running after a sow and her two piglets to the mirth of fellow bathers at Berlin's Teufelssee, or Devil's Lake. Adele Landauer, an actor and coach who says she took the pictures, wrote that the pigs first helped themselves to somebody's pizza before grabbing the bag. When the owner realized what had happened, he "gave his all" and recovered it, she said. "When he came back with his yellow bag in the hand we all clapped and congratulated him for his success," she added.

Minnesota man sells '57 pickup for $75 he paid 44 years ago

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A Minnesota man sold the 1957 Chevy pickup he drove for 44 years for $75, the same price he paid decades ago. Bob Sportal of Prinsburg handed over the key last month to the grandson of the man he bought the truck from, KARE-TV reported. Sportal was in his early 20s when he bought the rusty pickup from a retiring farmer. He drove the truck to work every day at a local grain elevator until he retired five years ago. Sportal kept driving the truck but decided to sell it to Tom Leenstra, grandson of the late John VanDerVeen, who originally sold the truck to Sportal. "It's like riding with my Grandpa again," Leenstra said. The truck has taken on antique value, but Sportal decided to sell it for what he paid for it.

Picture perfect? Woman receives ID with photo of empty chair

CENTERVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Driver's license photos aren't always the best, but when a Tennessee woman received her new ID the picture was perfect—for a furniture store. Jade Dodd renewed her license online and received it last week, but to her surprise, the photo wasn't a picture of her. It only showed an empty chair "The lady at the DMV did not really believe me when I was like 'hey, I need my license fixed,'" Dodd said. "Then, she looked it up in the system and goes, 'oh, I need my manager for this.'" The chair ended up being the focal point of the license because it was the last photo taken and saved to Dodd's file, the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security told WKRN-TV. The photo was taken accidentally, the department said.

Science & Technology

Microsoft back in the smartphone business with its new Duo

By MATT O'BRIEN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Microsoft is back to selling smartphones for the first time since it abandoned its mobile business more than four years ago.

The company began taking orders Wednesday for the Surface Duo, a new dual-screen Android device that costs $1,399 and begins shipping in September.

The high-priced gadget is designed to impress, but is also arriving during the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, with unemployment in double digits and budget-wary consumers spending more time at home to avoid the coronavirus pandemic.

In this Oct. 2, 2019, file photo, a Microsoft Surface Duo is displayed in New York. AP

Microsoft is pitching the Duo as a more useful tool than a conventional smartphone, since it enables users to multitask with two separate apps or web pages at a time. CEO Satya Nadella, for instance, uses one screen to take notes and the other to read a book on Amazon's Kindle app.

The Duo has two 5.6-inch displays and, when opened like a book, is a slim 4.8 millimeters thick, making it what the company says is the thinnest device on the market. Microsoft engineers say that instead of adopting a single folding screen, as Samsung does, they chose to connect two displays on a hinge because it allows for sturdier glass.

"It's thin, it's sleek, it's probably one of the sexiest devices we've built," said Panos Panay, Microsoft's chief product officer, during an online briefing Tuesday.

Adding a mobile device to its Surface line of computers is a reversal for Microsoft after its short-lived ownership of smartphone-maker Nokia and its difficulties in transitioning its Windows operating system to the mobile era. Apple and Google's Android long ago cornered the market on phone operating systems, but Microsoft's rare partnership with Google means Duo comes with a suite of Android apps.

Android phones to track quakes; California gets alert system

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Android phones will be used to sense earthquakes around the world and may one day be able to provide global warnings, with the first mass alert system unveiled Tuesday in California, Google announced.

Google, which helped develop Android, worked with California and the U.S. Geological Survey to build the quake alerts into all phones that run the commonplace mobile operating system. Android users who have enabled location services and are near a quake of magnitude 4.5 or greater will receive a full-screen earthquake warning telling them to drop to the floor and seek cover.

The screen also will provide estimates of the quake's magnitude and distance from the user.

The alert is based on the projected shaking at a particular location and a certain level of intensity. Depending on their distance from a quake, people could get several seconds or perhaps a minute of warning.

The warnings are powered by California's ShakeAlert system, which uses signals from more than 700 seismometers installed around the state that can sense seismic waves.

However, users won't need to download the state's MyShake app in order to receive the alerts. That application, developed by the University of California, Berkeley and launched last year, has been downloaded by only about 1 million of California's 40 million residents. By contrast, many millions of people own Android phones.

"This announcement means that California's world-class earthquake early warning system will be a standard function on every Android phone — giving millions precious seconds to drop, cover and hold on when the big one hits," Gov. Gavin Newsom said in a statement.

IPhone users won't receive the alerts through Apple's operating system, but they can download the MyShake app.

Also Tuesday, Google announced that Android phones will begin detecting earthquakes from around the world through their motion-sensing accelerometers.

File problems may not stem from Windows 10

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: When I bought a Windows 10 PC last year, I had all my Word files from Windows 7 transferred to the new computer. But I couldn't open those files using Word on Windows 10, and Word was unable to convert the files to a format that it could read. As a result, I had to use a program called Cool File Viewer that allowed me to open all my old documents, copy them and paste them into new Word files.

Then I downloaded the free trial version of Microsoft 365 (the online version of Microsoft Office) because I thought it was an update for Windows 10. I didn't use it, but once I agreed to the free trial, I started having trouble with Gmail in the Windows 10 Mail app, and had to use Gmail's website instead. Then Cool File Viewer crashed, and has caused problems ever since. I then found that many documents opened with the viewer were stored in the wrong PC location.

What's causing all these Windows 10-related glitches?

A: Windows 10 has its problems, but it didn't cause most of these issues.

Because Microsoft Word is backward-compatible, it should be able to read any older Word file. The fact that it couldn't read your older documents suggests that those files were actually created by a sound-alike program such as WordPerfect, Microsoft Works, Lotus WordPro or Abiword.

Because Microsoft Word is unable to open files from most of those programs, it suggested converting them to a different format. As you discovered, Cool File Viewer (see tinyurl.com/y3m6dzrs) can read documents from all of the programs listed above and more. As a result, it could copy your existing documents and paste them into new Microsoft Word files.

Now that you've converted all your old files, I suggest you stop using Cool File Viewer, which is no longer functioning properly. I think that the damaged program, and not Windows 10, is responsible for your files being stored in different places than you expected to find them.

If you downloaded Microsoft 365, which is not a Windows 10 upgrade, but didn't use it, the program probably isn't related to your problems with the Windows 10 Mail app. As I wrote previously, that problem was caused by a Microsoft update to either Windows 10 or the Mail app (see tinyurl.com/y2oqyjbt).

Q: When I downloaded a Windows 10 update, the screen display got expanded, and many icons were pushed beyond the edges of the monitor. The same thing happened with web pages.

I tried adjusting the screen resolution (which can change the size and sharpness of screen images), but it didn't help. I checked for updates for my monitor, but there weren't any. I finally gave up and switched back to the previous version of Windows 10 to solve the problem. But I'm worried that future updates will cause this to happen again. What should I do?

A: The problem isn't caused by Windows 10, but rather by other PC software that needs to be updated. That software runs the PC's "display adapter" that controls the screen display.

To make the adapter compatible with the Windows update, download the latest software driver for it. To do that, press the Windows logo key and the "x" key simultaneously. In the list on the left, click "device manager." In the next list, click the arrow (looks like ">") next to "display adapters" to see your own adapter. Right-click your adapter, and click "update driver."

Science Matters

New material for the Solar Age

Thin sheets of the mineral perovskite can generate electricity more efficiently than the silicon panels used worldwide. Researchers are racing to make them practical.

In sunny places, 1 hectare (2.5 acres) of solar panels can generate about 1 megawatt of power …

BUT

… today silicon panels can reach only 20% efficiency – under ideal conditions

Perovskite*: Crystals a natural semiconductor

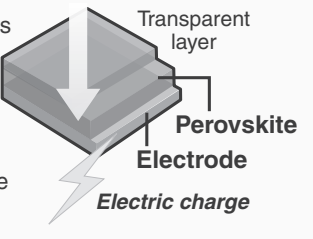
Mineral discovered in Ural Mountains contains **calcium titanium oxide** crystals

Acts as a semiconductor, can be used instead of silicon to capture and transmit energy from solar radiation to electric power

* Named after the Russian mineralogist Lev Perovsky (1792-1856)

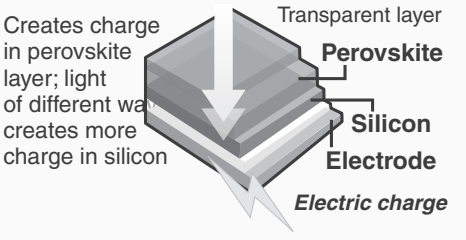
Perovskite solar cell

Research has centered on this design



New tandem design adds silicon

Newer, more promising design



Researchers tackle persistent issues

Experimental perovskite panels **last only a year** at most. Silicon-based panels, 25 to 30 years

Highly efficient only on **"postage stamp-sized" chips**

Fabricating efficient perovskite solar cells requires **toxic compounds, such as lead.** Less toxic versions of perovskite chips are less efficient.

Source: Liu, Z., Qiu, L., Ono, L.K. of Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology; Nature Energy magazine; E/The Environmental Magazine; Ron Lavinski crystal photo; TNS Photos

Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Reimagining ‘The Secret Garden’ for a new generation

This image released by STXfilms shows Dixie Egerickx, Edan Hayhurst and Amir Wilson in a scene from “The Secret Garden.” AP

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

Frances Hodgson Burnett’s children’s classic “ The Secret Garden “ has been adapted into several films, television series and even a Broadway musical. But it had been 27 years since Mary Lennox had last been committed to film and the time seemed ripe for another visit to Misselthwaite Manor. Like “Little Women,” every generation is entitled to its own version.

Producer Rosie Alison of Heyday Films (the shop behind the “Paddington” movies) had been enchanted by the 1911 novel as a child and the 1949 MGM version with Margaret O’Brien. She was certain that it held an appeal for modern children, who perhaps didn’t have to reach back too far for a connection to the material—a generation who grew up with Agnieszka Holland’s 1993 version are also now grown with children of their own.

“It’s such a beautiful, redemptive fable,” she said. “It’s about damaged, slightly misfit children who are lonely and find friendship in nature. Parents think they’ll be bored, but I find that a lot of kids really get into it.”

They found supportive collaborators in StudioCanal, who were also partners on the “Paddington” films and are always looking for family fare. Alison said they weren’t hard to persuade, but, “Everybody treaded a little nervously about the fact that it’s not a huge action adventure with branded characters.”

Marc Munden (“National Treasure”) was enlisted to direct, they got Colin Firth and Julie Walters on board and watched around 800 tapes to find their perfect Mary. The part would go to 12-year-old Dixie Egerickx, who displayed a “remarkable intelligence” and understanding of the character.

“She’s not really your traditional heroine,” Egerickx, who is now 15, said. “What I like about her is she’s quite complex. She’s initially very unpleasant, rude and unlikable but we learn that’s because she’s lonely and she doesn’t have anyone.”

The filmmakers were given a relatively modest budget for a film with visual effects ($20 million). But even with the elements of magical realism, most of the outdoor scenes were shot on location, including the garden itself. It was decided early on that it’d be impossible to “invent” nature on a soundstage and thus the filmmakers set off on a 50-garden journey around Yorkshire, North Wales, Wiltshire, Dorset and Cornwall to find the perfect combination of settings for the enchanting, abandoned garden.

“It sticks more to Mary’s imagination and her subjective view of the world, and there are slightly more fluid boundaries between her way of seeing and the world around her,” Alison said. “Now, when she goes into the garden, it just seems boundless, because that’s how it is to a child.”

In order to make it a little less remote for modern children, the filmmakers brought the story forward a few decades from its Edwardian roots. It still had to be in the past, Alison said. Things like child services and health and safety would be involved if it were too modern.

But now, instead of 1911, it’s set in 1947 in a post-World War II framework. Still, most of the notes will feel familiar. Mary still hails from India, her parents still die of cholera and Archibald Craven (Firth) is just as distant and ghostly as ever.

Broadway musical ‘Diana’ to bypass closed stage for Netflix

NEW YORK (AP)—The Broadway musical “Diana” isn’t waiting for theaters to reopen in New York to offer its show to a live audience—it’s going to Netflix.

In an unconventional step, the cast and crew will reunite in an empty theater to perform the musical for cameras and put the finished product on the digital platform for broadcast next year, before the show welcomes a live audience again.

“We speak for the entire company when we say that we couldn’t be more excited to finally be able to share our show with theater lovers everywhere. Though there is no substitute for the live theater, we are honored to be a part of the quality entertainment that Netflix provides its subscribers worldwide,” the show’s producers said in statement Wednesday.

Producers have worked out safety protocols with Actors’ Equity Association, the labor union representing actors and stage managers. The provisions include initial and recurring testing for Equity members, an isolation plan for the actors and stage managers, and changes to ensure ventilation in the back of the theater, among other requirements.

“Now comes the hard part—taking a safety plan from the page and putting it into practice. The work to provide the safest workplace possible in this environment will require everyone to work together, from the employer to every employee,” said Mary McColl, executive director of Actors’ Equity Association.

Netflix has several live-capture Broadway shows in its library—like Bruce Springsteen’s one-man musical and Kerry Washington’s “American Son”—but the cameras usually came in to film at the end of the live show’s run, or the release was made after the show’s conclusion.

“Diana,” which tells the story of the late Diana Spencer, started previews on Broadway in early March but never officially opened at the Longacre Theatre before the pandemic wiped out all live theater. Producers said Wednesday that the show’s new opening night will be May 25, 2021.

Shows usually have a few weeks of previews where kinks are worked out and changes can be made before the show is finally deemed frozen and critics are invited to attend the finished product. “Diana” never got over the finish line this year.

Data has indicated that instead of cannibalizing fans, broadcasts of theatrical shows actually may whet an audience’s appetite. A recent survey by ticketing app TodayTix found more than a third of respondents who hadn’t seen “Hamilton” live were more likely to buy a ticket after seeing the recent broadcast of the musical on Disney+.

AP

This image released by O&MDKC shows, from left, Judy Kaye, Erin Davie, Roe Hartrampf and Jeanna de Waal who will appear in the upcoming musical “Diana,” which tells the story of the late Diana Spencer. The production, which started previews on Broadway in early March but never officially opened due to the pandemic, is coming to Netflix.

Sara Bareilles to star in Peacock comedy about a girl group

NEW YORK (AP)—Sara Bareilles will be acting against type in her next role: She’ll be playing a washed-up musician.

Bareilles

The NBCUniversal streaming platform Peacock said Monday the Grammy-winning artist and Broadway songwriter Bareilles will star in “Girls5eva,” co-produced by Tina Fey.

The comedy is about a one-hit-wonder girl group called “Girls5eva” from the 1990s whose members reunite to give their pop star dreams one more shot.

Bareilles will play Dawn, a former member of Girls5eva who is now managing her family’s small Italian restaurant in New York City.

Bareilles’s hits include “Love Song” and “Brave.” She composed the music and lyrics for the Broadway musical “Waitress” and made her Broadway acting debut in 2017 by stepping into the show’s lead role.

Recently, she served as executive producer for “Little Voice,” a 10-episode series, for which she created the original music.

“I am a longtime admirer of so many of the characters they have brought to life in other projects, and I am already in love with the women at the center of ‘Girls5eva,’” she said in a statement.

Meredith Scardino will be writer and executive producer for the series. Fey will be an executive producer. No other casting was revealed, nor the date of its premiere.

Prosecutors charge 3 with threatening women in R. Kelly case

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal prosecutors announced charges Wednesday against three men accused of threatening and intimidating women who have accused R&B singer R. Kelly of abuse, including one man suspected of setting fire to a vehicle in Florida.

A longtime friend of the indicted singer offered to pay a victim $500,000 to keep her from cooperating in Kelly's prosecution, authorities said, while a manager and adviser of Kelly threatened to release sexually explicit photographs of a woman who sued Kelly.

A Kelly defense attorney said he had "no involvement whatsoever" in any attempt to silence witnesses.

"He hasn't attempted to intimidate anyone, or encouraged anyone else to do so," attorney Steve Greenberg said on Twitter.

The Grammy-award winning musician has pleaded not guilty to dozens of state and federal sexual misconduct charges in Illinois, Minnesota and New York.

The charges range from sexual assault to heading a racketeering scheme aimed at supplying Kelly with girls. Kelly also is accused of having unprotected sex with a minor in 2015 without disclosing he had herpes.

Prosecutors described a third man accused of intimidating witnesses as being related to a former Kelly publicist. They said Michael Williams, 37, of Valdosta, Georgia, traveled to Florida in June and set fire to an SUV parked outside a residence where one of Kelly's victims was staying.

Williams also conducted Internet searches for "the detonation properties of fertilizer and diesel fuel, witness intimidation and witness tampering and countries that do not have extradition with the United States," authorities said in a news release.

AP

In this June 26, 2019 file photo, R&B singer R. Kelly, center, arrives at the Leighton Criminal Court building for an arraignment on sex-related felonies in Chicago.

A message was sent to Williams' attorney seeking comment.

"The men charged today allegedly have shown that there is no line they will not cross to help Kelly avoid the consequences of his alleged crimes—even if it means revictimizing his accusers," Peter Fitzhugh, special agent in charge of the Homeland Security Investigations in New York, said in a statement.

Also charged were two Illinois men with ties to Kelly. His longtime friend, Richard Arline Jr., 31, is accused of offering to pay off a woman he believed had "too much" incriminating information against Kelly.

Authorities said they set up a wiretap and recorded a call in which Arline claimed he had spoken with Kelly behind bars during a three-way call.

Donnell Russell, 45, of Chicago, is charged with harassing a Kelly victim and her mother after the unidentified woman filed a lawsuit against Kelly. Authorities said Russell, a manager and adviser to Kelly, sent a letter to the woman's lawyer with cropped nude photographs of her and later sent her a text warning her: "Pull the plug or you will be exposed."

It was not immediately clear whether Russell and Arline had attorneys who could comment on the charges.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Trump lip-sync star Sarah Cooper gets Netflix special

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sarah Cooper, whose lip-sync parodies of President Donald Trump are an online sensation, is coming to Netflix with a variety special. "Everything's Fine," starring the writer and comedian, will debut this fall, the streaming service said Wednesday. Cooper is working with heavyweight talent on the special: Maya Rudolph is the executive producer and Nastasha Lyonne ("Russian Doll") is directing. The show will include "vignettes dealing with issues of politics, race, gender, class, and other light subjects," Netflix said, with guest performers taking part in short interviews, sketches and "more shenanigans." In her early Trump satiric video, "How to Medical," an expressive Cooper silently mouthed along to the president's musings about the possibilities of sunlight and disinfectant as coronavirus antidotes. Cooper's comedic how-to books include "100 Tricks to Appear Smart in Meetings" and "How to be Successful Without Hurting Men's Feelings."

Dolly Parton, Justin Bieber among virtual TV festival stars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dolly Parton, Cate Blanchett and Justin Bieber are part of the virtual edition of the Paley Center's annual festival celebrating TV programs and their makers. PaleyFest LA, responding to pandemic restrictions, taped socially distanced discussions with stars and producers that began streaming free this week on the Paley Center's YouTube channel. The showcased series includes "Dolly Parton's Heartstrings"; "Justin Bieber: Seasons"; "Late Night with Seth Meyers"; "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"; "Mrs. America"; "One Day at a Time"; "Outlander"; "Ozark," and "Queer Eye." TV fans can enjoy seeing the conversations with the casts and creators of the shows that "they've come to love, all from the comfort of home," said Maureen J. Reidy, the Paley Center's president and CEO. Blanchett is part of the "Mrs. America" panel that includes Rose Byrne, Uzo Aduba and Sarah Paulson,

Bob Woodward's new Trump book, 'Rage,' due out next month

WASHINGTON (AP)—Veteran Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward's new book about President Donald Trump is titled "Rage" and will be released Sept. 15, less than two months before Election Day, according to a listing on Amazon.com. Publisher Simon & Schuster says the forthcoming book follows "Trump's moves as he faces a global pandemic, economic disaster and racial unrest." It says Woodward conducted a series of exclusive interviews with the president. The Amazon listing also notes that Woodward obtained 25 personal letters between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, including one in which Kim describes their bond as something out of a "fantasy film." Woodward's first book about the Trump presidency, "Fear," was published in 2018 and went to No. 1 on The New York Times' nonfiction bestseller list. Simon & Schuster was the publisher of two books this year that were harshly critical of Trump: "The Room Where It Happened," by former national security adviser John Bolton, and "Too Much and Never Enough," by Trump's niece Mary Trump.

Actors and Disney World reach deal after virus testing fight

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Walt Disney World and the union for its actors and singers reached an agreement on Wednesday that will allow them to return to work, more than a month after they said they were locked out of the reopening of the theme park resort for publicly demanding coronavirus tests. Disney agreed to have a state-run drive-thru COVID-19 testing site for workers and the public at the Florida theme park resort. That decision encouraged Actor's Equity Association to sign a memorandum of understanding allowing the actors, singers and stage managers to return to their jobs. "We have been consistent that testing is an important part of ensuring a safe workplace for Equity performers, and today, I'm pleased to see that Disney World has agreed," Kate Shindle, president of Actors' Equity Association, said in a statement. The union represents 750 Disney World workers. Disney officials said in a notice to its workers that there would be a dedicated testing lane for its workers and their families, and that reservations could be made for testing starting Thursday.

Aunt's memory issues put her family at a crossroads

DEAR ABBY: I'm part of a large, close-knit family. My mother and her sisters have condominiums in the same complex. One dear aunt is having a great deal of trouble with her memory and word retrieval. She recently stopped recognizing her daughter and no longer calls any of us by name.

The problem is, some of this aunt's children are in denial. They refuse to believe there's anything wrong with their mom and insist that she is showing signs of normal aging. They have stated this so strongly that the other siblings are afraid to raise the issue of an assessment for fear of angering them further. It is a very difficult family dynamic.

Normally, we wouldn't comment on or intervene in such a private matter. However, seeing my aunt deprived of a medical diagnosis and associated care that might alleviate her suffering, it is very hard to stay quiet. It may or may not be possible to reduce her symptoms, but it seems like it is elder abuse to rob her of the chance to try. Please advise.

CONCERNED FOR AUNTIE

DEAR CONCERNED: Close family members are typically the first to notice memory issues or cognitive problems, but often they are hesitant to say something even when they know something is wrong. A recent Alzheimer's Association survey found that nearly 3 out of 4 Americans say talking to a close family member about memory loss, thinking problems or other signs of cognitive decline would be challenging.

Initiating these challenging conversations is important. Discussion can enable early diagnosis, which has important benefits, including better disease management, more time for critical care planning and providing diagnosed individuals a voice in their future care. It also provides an opportunity to address concerns before a crisis situation arises.

While our cognitive abilities decrease with age, your aunt's inability to recognize her own daughter is NOT a sign of normal aging. Helping relatives understand the seriousness of the situation as well as the important health benefits of receiving a proper diagnosis may convince them. If your aunt's children find it too difficult to have the conversation, another close relative, a friend perhaps, or her doctor can take the lead.

To encourage families to have these conversations, the Alzheimer's Association has partnered with the Ad Council in creating "Our Stories" (alz.org/ourstories). It features real stories of people who noticed changes in their loved ones and took the difficult step of having a conversation. It also offers customizable conversation starters, a list of early signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's, benefits of early diagnosis and a downloadable discussion help guide. In addition, the Alzheimer's Association's free 24/7 Helpline (800-272-3900) is available for families addressing these important conversations and other caregiving concerns.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

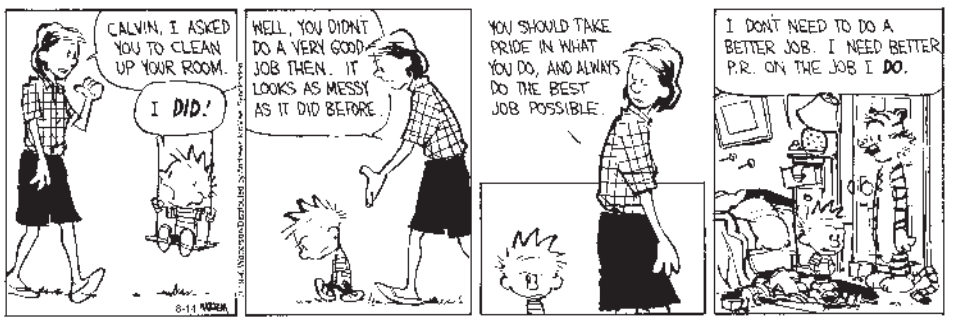
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


CALVIN, I ASKED YOU TO CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM.
I DID!
WELL, YOU DIDN'T DO A VERY GOOD JOB THEN. IT LOOKS AS MESSY AS IT DID BEFORE.
YOU SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN WHAT YOU DO, AND ALWAYS DO THE BEST JOB POSSIBLE.
I DON'T NEED TO DO A BETTER JOB. I NEED BETTER P.R. ON THE JOB I DO.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

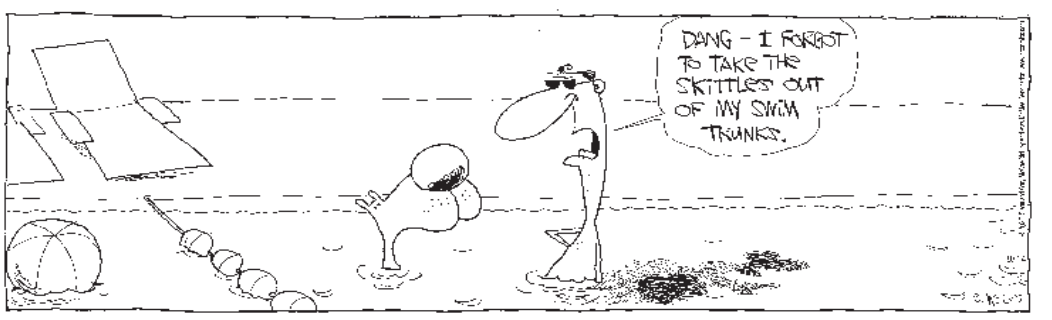
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ADAM! COME IN! IT'S NOT SAFE.
WHAT? I'M ON A ROLL!
AND THERE HASN'T BEEN A SINGLE CLAP OF...
EAR-SPLITTING THUNDER
HOW LONG WILL IT STAY LIKE THAT?
JUST UNTIL I CHANGE MY PANTS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

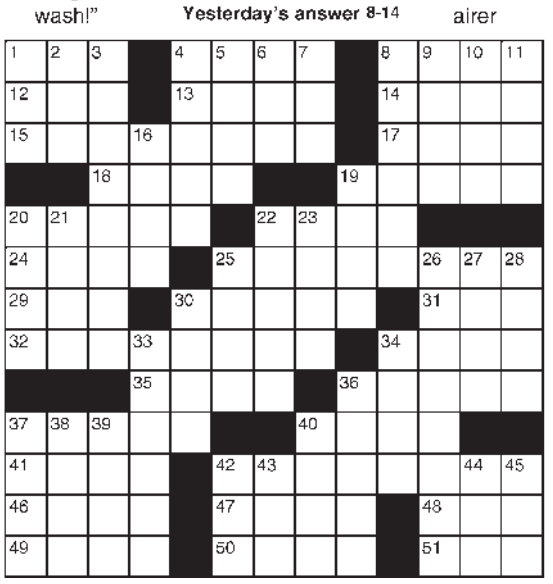
ACROSS
1 Pickle holder
4 Balkan native
8 Fill fully
12 Japanese sash
13 Composer Porter
14 Second-hand
15 Morning wear
17 Cherry type
18 Speed
19 Persnickety
20 Enjoyed Vail
22 Slope transport
24 Low digits
25 Frigid tub session
29 Gore and Pacino
30 Varieties
31 Parched
32 Toweling-off spots
34 Eager
35 Morays
36 Investigate
37 "Hog-wash!"
40 Avocado dip, for short
41 Stir up
42 Backyard splashing place
46 Vogue rival
47 Beatnik's assent
48 Bar bill
49 Indigent
50 Big name in cosmetics
51 Conceit

DOWN
1 Task
2 Lawyers' gp.
3 Most luxurious
4 Seafood selection
5 Weaver's machine
6 Cleric's tunic
7 Geese formation
8 Outlying area
9 Un-repaired
10 Till bills
11 Jittery
16 Tackles weeds
19 Crazes
20 Wild guess
21 Caffeine-rich nut
22 Civil wrongs
23 Diner orders
25 Furnace fuel
26 Supporter of a cause
27 Chicago paper, for short
28 Jekyll's bad side
30 Diving duck
33 Shaman, for one
34 Speedy steed
36 Roly-poly
37 Get ready, briefly
38 Alone
39 Hawaiian city
40 Sand
42 Pen name
43 Altar affirmative
44 Price point?
45 "Big Little Lies" airer

Solution time: 25 mins.

I	N	N	S			S	E	T		S	C	A	M
B	E	E	¯			A	P	R		W	H	I	R
M	A	R	E			¯	A	I		O	A	R	S
S	¯	C	R	B	Y			B	A	R	N		
				H	O	R	S	E	S	E	N	S	E
F	A	C	E	D		A	C	H		E	J	R	
I	S	C	N			M	B	A		M	L	I	I
R	¯	E		S	A	L		P	A	S	T	E	
S	I	X	¯	H	S	E	N	S	E				
		I	O	U	S		E	I	S	N	E	R	
S	O	S	O			S	P		T	Y	R	O	
P	U	T	¯			V	I	A		R	E	A	M
F	I	S	H			E	S	L		O	T	T	O

Yesterday's answer 8-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mila Kunis, 37; Halle Berry, 54; Jackee Harry, 64; Steve Martin, 75.

Happy Birthday: Make things happen. Take responsibility for your actions and your future. If you lack what you need to follow a direction that excites you, pick up the skills, knowledge, license or whatever else is required to make your dream come true. Shoot for the stars, and see what transpires. Strive for equality when dealing with relationships. Your numbers are 3, 17, 22, 27, 31, 35, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep your emotions under control. An intelligent and practical approach to getting things done will help you reach your goal. Don't let an emotional incident ruin your day or plans. Be sensible, moderate and practical, regardless of what others do. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Consider what will make you happy, content and ready to get on with your life. Personal forgiveness, positive change and surrounding yourself with the people who help you be your best will enhance your experience. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Figure out who is trustworthy and who isn't before you pick sides or get involved in a new project. If something doesn't feel right, ask questions. A change at home will add to your comfort and improve your emotional well-being. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* It's OK to make a change once in a while. Stop fearing the unknown, and start discovering what life has to offer. A little ingenuity will help you update your skills and attributes to fit what's trending. Be imaginative, and follow your heart. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Converse with people who share your beliefs. The suggestions made will give you the courage to head in the best direction. If you show promise and reliability, someone will offer support. Don't settle for less than what you want. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to let your emotions take over. Common sense and practicality will save you from making a mistake. Concentrate on fulfilling your obligations and enforcing changes that will improve your life. Let go of the past. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Make plans to do something special with someone who brings out the best in you. Taking a healthy approach to life and the way you live will make you feel good about prospects. Distance yourself from negative, demanding individuals. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Learn from observation, performance and experience. Implement upbeat changes. Enforce your pursuits with finesse, and target what you have to market that will fit trends. A romantic gesture will enhance your life and encourage you to carry out a promise. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Honesty, communication and commitment will determine the outcome of a personal problem. Broach sensitive issues with an open mind and heart. Compromise will bring you closer to a lifestyle that offers peace of mind, contentment and a better future. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a load off your mind by directly addressing financial or contractual matters. Lay your cards on the table, and find out where others stand on important issues. Take time to rejuvenate and rethink your strategy. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Touch base with someone who always lifts your spirit. Dealing with children and what they say will lead to an awakening that will bring about a positive change. A discussion will bring you closer to someone you love. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Mix the old with the new, and it will lead to personal peace and happiness. The people you associate with will make a difference to the way your day unfolds. Avoid indulgent situations, and embrace a healthier lifestyle. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are talkative, engaging and compassionate. You are imaginative and intelligent.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6	2			
4 6 9					5	2 7
	3				4	
	1	7	9		8	
2		5	6			9
6 8					3	5
		4	3			

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

9	3	6	4	2	5	8	7	1
8	4	5	1	6	7	2	3	9
1	2	7	8	3	9	5	6	4
4	9	2	6	8	1	7	5	3
3	6	8	7	5	4	9	1	2
7	5	1	3	9	2	4	8	6
2	7	9	5	1	6	3	4	8
6	8	4	2	7	3	1	9	5
5	1	3	9	4	8	6	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/13

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PARCELS — Solution: 4 letters

E	N	C	A	S	E	F	S	D	L	R	O	W	R	D
H	E	A	V	Y	D	E	E	E	Z	I	S	E	H	E
S	H	N	M	E	S	W	I	D	E	S	N	L	O	S
T	C	A	D	A	C	R	A	T	E	I	E	L	L	T
A	T	D	C	I	Z	T	S	R	A	X	S	S	D	I
M	A	A	O	R	E	O	D	T	P	G	E	F	E	N
P	B	P	U	T	L	D	N	R	A	R	T	A	R	A
S	O	O	R	R	A	O	E	B	V	C	E	R	E	T
H	X	S	I	A	C	S	G	I	U	S	K	G	T	I
I	E	T	E	N	S	A	C	I	P	T	C	O	U	O
P	S	I	R	S	T	E	R	O	S	A	A	O	R	N
P	H	M	O	P	F	M	A	T	D	T	P	D	N	S
I	U	I	O	O	I	Ⓝ	Ⓔ	Ⓟ	Ⓞ	E	I	S	I	N
N	T	N	D	R	G	S	E	T	O	N	S	C	L	I
G	L	G	S	T	H	G	I	E	W	N	G	I	S	T

© 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 8/14

Address, Air Transport, Amazon, Bags, Batch, Boxes, Canada Post, Carton, Cases, Codes, Container, Courier, Crate, Date, Destinations, DHL Express, Door, Encase, FedEx, Gifts, Goods, Heavy, Logistics, Notes, Older, Open, Packet, Padded, Return, Service, Shipping, Shutl, Sign, Size, Stack, Stamps, State, Timing, Tins, UPS, Weights, Wells Fargo, Wide, World

Yesterday's Answer: Hobbies

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

7 first-round playoff pairings set

FLORIDA (AP)—The NBA playoff bracket is nearly set.

Wednesday's results filled in five of what were the six unknown matchups for Round 1 of the postseason, which starts next week at Walt Disney World.

In the Western Conference: Houston and Oklahoma City will meet in the first round, meaning Rockets guard Russell Westbrook and Thunder guard Chris Paul get the chance to face their former teams.

"It'll be interesting," Paul said. "Two teams that know a lot about each other. We'll prepare, get ready and we'll see what's what."

Other West matchups that got clinched on Wednesday include the second-seeded Los Angeles Clippers against No. 7 Dallas, and No. 3 Denver against No. 6 Utah.

In the East, Miami and Indiana will meet in the first round—after the clubs close the regular season on Friday against one another to decide which team will be seeded No. 4 and which will be No. 5.

Indiana's win over Houston on Wednesday set what had been the last two unknown series on the East bracket. No. 3 Boston will play No. 6 Philadelphia in a meeting between longtime rivals, and the Pacers are now locked into an East opening series against the Heat—with the potential of those teams playing nine times in a span of 10 games.

Miami beat Indiana on Monday. The teams meet again Friday then face off in Game 1 to begin a best-of-seven series early next week.

That means, for just the second time since 2011, teams that end the regular season against one another will open the postseason against one another. The last time it happened was 2016, when Cleveland faced Detroit.

"It's good to know that we play them," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Just need to figure out what uniform we're wearing."

That will be decided Friday, when home-uniform advantage gets decided.

"We've got to match Miami's energy," Indiana's Edmond Sumner said. "That's a team that's going to play hard for 48 minutes."

The other East matchups were known previously: No. 1 Milwaukee plays No. 8 Orlando, and No. 2 Toronto plays No. 7 Brooklyn.

In the West, Houston and Oklahoma City will be in the 4-5 matchup and Utah will be the No. 6 seed. The Jazz were locked into that slot by the Thunder defeating Miami, and Denver became the No. 3 seed when they lost to the Clippers.

The full list of matchups won't be known until at least Saturday, when the West play-in series begins with Portland, Memphis, Phoenix and San Antonio bidding for those two spots. The winner of that series will take on the top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers in the first round, the only matchup that's yet to be determined.

AP

Los Angeles Clippers center Ivica Zubac (40) shoots while defended by Denver Nuggets players Nikola Jokic (15), Torrey Craig (3) and Michael Porter Jr. (1) in the first half of an NBA game Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Clippers 124, Nuggets 111

Paul George scored 27 points, Kawhi Leonard had 26 and the Los Angeles Clippers wrapped up the second seed in the Western Conference playoffs with a victory over the third-seeded Denver Nuggets.

The Clippers will face seventh-seeded Dallas when the playoffs get going next week.

The Clippers took control with 13 straight points midway through the third quarter and barely let the Nuggets get back in it.

George and Leonard were big reasons why. George made two 3-pointers midway through the period, and Leonard sprinted to midcourt on a defense possession, picked off a pass at midcourt and glided in for a basket.

Los Angeles took the lead for good with 10 minutes left on Lou Williams' jumper and steadily built the advantage to double digits on the way to its second straight win over the Northwest Division champions.

Pacers 108, Rockets 104

Myles Turner had 18 points, reserve Edmond Sumner added a season-high 17 and Indiana held off a late rally by Houston and James Harden to break a five-game losing streak to the Rockets.

It looked as if the Pacers had locked up the win when they went up 104-90 with 5:05 remaining. That's when Harden got Houston going, cutting it to 106-104 on with a driving basket with 27 seconds to go.

Harden had 11 of Houston's 14 points during the surge. But after Victor Oladipo missed a 3-pointer, Turner tipped out the rebound to Justin Holiday with six seconds left. Holiday hit two foul shots to finish off Indiana's first victory over Houston since February 2017.

Harden could not get off a final 3-pointer before the buzzer sounded. The Rockets have lost two straight for the first time since the NBA restarted the season.

Raptors 125, 76ers 121

Stanley Johnson scored the tiebreaking basket in the lane with 4.9 seconds remaining, giving Toronto a victory over Philadelphia that made a winner of Adrian Griffin.

Raptors coach Nick Nurse let his assistant coach run the team and they responded with a late run from the bottom of their bench, long after Philadelphia's Joel Embiid had ended his night, to improve to 6-1 in the restart.

Kyle Lowry and Chris Boucher each scored 19 points for the Raptors.

Embiid played just the first half after missing a game with a left ankle injury. He also took a hit on the hand in this one and finished with five points in 14 minutes.

Thunder 116, Heat 115

Mike Muscala made a 3-pointer with 5.2 seconds and the Oklahoma City Thunder overcame a 22-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat the Miami Heat 116-115 on Wednesday night.

In a game largely played by reserves in the second half, Muscala hit two 3-pointers in the final 35 seconds for his only points of the game.

Darius Bazley scored 21 points and Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 18 for the Thunder. They outscored the Heat 34-15 in the fourth quarter.

Rookie Tyler Herro scored a season-high 30 points for Miami, and Duncan Robinson added 19—all in the first half.

We Make
StayingHome Awesome!
NOCTOVA SLEEP
relax. renew. refresh.
Starting at $14.95/week
Noctova Mattresses
SAMSUNG
Starting at $14.95/week
32" Smart TV
Starting at $15.95/week
15" Touch Laptop
Starting at $16.95/week
All-In-One Desktop
*This is a rent to own transaction. You don't own the product until all rental payments are completed. Example: $9.95 x 12 months=$517.40. Some restrictions apply, see store for details.
NO CREDIT NEEDED
CHALAN KANOA 234-DIAL | MIDDLE ROAD 234-RENT
DIAL Rent-to-Own

Cubs' 12-3 start best in 50 years

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kyle Hendricks pitched six strong innings in his first appearance against Cleveland since Game 7 of the 2016 World Series and Anthony Rizzo homered, leading the Chicago Cubs to a 7-2 win over the Indians on Wednesday night to match their best start in 50 years.

Hendricks (3-1) didn't have much trouble with the slumping Indians. He allowed one run and seven hits and handled everyone in Cleveland's lineup but Franmil Reyes, who got three hits.

The Cubs are 12-3 in their first season under manager David Ross, matching the club's start after 15 games in 1970.

Rizzo homered in the third off Carlos Carrasco (2-2), David Bote drove in two runs and Kris Bryant connected for a 430-foot shot as the Cubs swept the two-game interleague set.

Hendricks hadn't faced the Indians since Nov. 2, 2016, when he started the dramatic finale as the Cubs beat the Indians in extra innings to clinch their first Series title since 1908.

AP

Chicago Cubs' Jason Kipnis, right, slides safely into second base for a double as Cleveland Indians' Francisco Lindor is late with the tag in the third inning in a baseball game, Wednesday, Aug. 12, 2020, in Cleveland.

Athletics 8, Angels 4

Stephen Piscotty, Matt Olson and Robbie Grossman homered, center fielder Ramon Laureano made three nifty catches and Oakland averted a sweep with a win over Los Angeles.

Piscotty put the A's ahead with his solo drive in the fourth inning. Olson and Grossman also went deep off Griffin Canning (0-3).

Seven of the Athletics' nine hits were for extra bases, including a pair of doubles by Matt Chapman.

Marlins 14, Blue Jays 11, 10 innings

Magneuris Sierra hit a go-ahead single in the 10th inning and Miami overcame Toronto's seven home runs in the final game of its season-opening, three-week road trip.

Bo Bichette went 5 for 5 for the Blue Jays, a day after homering during a 10-inning win in their first game at their new Buffalo home. He connected again as Toronto became the fourth team in major league history to lose while slugging at least seven homers.

Diamondbacks 13, Rockies 7

Starling Marte homered and drove in four runs as Arizona battered Colorado in a Coors Field slugfest featuring 34 hits, but none by blistering Charlie Blackmon.

Blackmon went 0 for 4, ending his hitting streak at 15 games, and his average dipped to .472. Nolan Arenado homered twice and doubled for the Rockies.

Rangers 7, Mariners 4

Todd Frazier scored the tie-breaking run on a wild pitch in the eighth inning, Willie Calhoun then hit a two-run single and Texas overcame an early four-run deficit to beat Seattle.

Derek Dietrich started the Rangers' five-run eighth with his one-out single, before Elvis Andrus doubled and pinch-hitter Frazier was hit by a pitch. Dietrich scored on No. 9 batter Jeff Mathis' bloop single to left center before Shin-Soo Choo's sacrifice fly tied the game.

Dodgers 6, Padres 0

Tony Gonsolin and five relievers combined on a six-hit shutout, Justin Turner hit a three-run homer, and Los Angeles beat San Diego and avoided losing three in a row for the first time since last August.

The Dodgers played small ball to score two runs in the fifth, then Turner slugged his second three-run blast of the season in the eighth off Craig Stammen.

White Sox 7, Tigers 5

Tim Anderson had four hits and finished a double shy of the cycle, and Luis Robert hit a bases-clearing double to lift Chicago past Detroit.

Anderson and Eloy Jimenez led off the game with consecutive home runs.

Anderson had a triple and added two singles before striking out on three pitches in the eighth.

Yankees 6, Braves 3

Injury fill-in Clint Frazier had three hits, including a home run, and scored twice in his season debut as New York swept a two-game set with Atlanta.

Johan Camargo lined a two-run homer in the second to give the Braves an early lead against New York starter Masahiro Tanaka, charged with two runs on five hits and two walks in four innings.

Royals 5, Reds 4

Streaking Salvador Perez had three more hits, including a homer and RBI double, Reds left-hander Wade Miley made another early exit after a misstep, and Kansas City beat Cincinnati for its fifth victory in six games.

The Royals' offense has led the way during the surge. It scored one run at a time to keep it going, led by Perez's homer, double and single.

Rays 9, Red Sox 5

Blake Snell pitched five shutout innings and Tampa Bay backed him with a trio of 400-foot homers to beat Boston and earn a fifth straight victory.

Willy Adames, Brandon Lowe and Yoshi Tsutsugo all homered off Zack Godley, and Austin Meadows hit a solo shot in the ninth after Boston scored five in the eighth to cut into an eight-run lead.

Mets 11, Nationals 6

Pete Alonso and Dominic Smith had back-to-back RBI doubles in a four-run first inning and hit consecutive homers in a five-run sixth, leading New York over Washington.

The fourth, fifth and sixth batters in the Mets' lineup, Michael Conforto, Alonso and Smith, went 7-for-11 with eight RBI, eight runs scored, three walks and a hit batsman in 15 plate appearances.

Twins 12, Brewers 2

Byron Buxton hit two solo homers and Miguel Sano added another as Minnesota jumped to an early lead and routed Milwaukee.

The victory gave the AL Central-leading Twins a 2-1 series win over the Brewers, who dropped to 2-6 at home.

Minnesota starter Kenta Maeda (3-0) retired the first 11 batters he faced.

Orioles 5, Phillies 4

Rio Ruiz, Chance Sisco and Anthony Santander homered to lead Baltimore past Philadelphia.

Baltimore reliever Miguel Castro wiggled out a jam in the eighth thanks to a fantastic diving stop by Ruiz. Cole Sulser worked a scoreless ninth for his fourth save.

The Orioles took the first two games of the series and have won four straight completed games.

Astros 5, Giants 1

Martin Maldonado hit a three-run home run to back a strong start by Zack Greinke and help Houston beat San Francisco.

The game was tied with no outs in the sixth when Carlos Correa, Kyle Tucker and Abraham Toro hit consecutive singles. Houston took a 2-1 lead when Correa scored on a wild pitch by Caleb Baragar (2-1).

2022 World Cup further behind schedule with Asian games off

GENEVA (AP)—All Asian qualifying games for the 2022 World Cup scheduled this year were postponed to 2021 on Wednesday, adding to a global fixture backlog for soccer's biggest competition caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation issued a joint statement saying the delay is to protect the health and safety of all participants from COVID-19. The games will be rescheduled in 2021.

Each of 40 nations involved were due to play three or four rounds to complete the current phase of World Cup qualifying in Asia which now fell further behind schedule with no games played in 2020.

FIFA's global calendar of national-team games now has too few dates to complete the qualifying program as originally planned after the latest round of postponements.

The slots in June 2022 protected for national-team games are fast becoming key to deciding the 32-nation World Cup lineup. Yet those dates are available only because of the disputed FIFA decision in 2015 to move the finals tournament to November and December to avoid Qatar's searing summer heat.

Soccer governing bodies for Europe and South America already proposed changes to make space for more national-team games.

UEFA is adding a third game into traditional double-header weeks for national teams, ahead of losing dates for World Cup qualifiers in June 2021 when the postponed 2020 European Championship is played. However, this solution is more complicated for other continents with greater travel demands, including for Europe-based players.

South America's CONMEBOL has yet to start its scheduled 18-round World Cup qualifying group and asked FIFA for an extra block of games in January 2022. That will likely be unpopular with European clubs if they are required to release players for additional weeks in what will already be a congested season.

FIFA and the AFC said they would work together "to identify new dates for the respective qualifying matches."

The four rounds of games postponed Wednesday would have completed the second round of World Cup qualifying in Asia, that also feeds into teams advancing to the 2023 Asian Cup hosted by China.

The eight group winners and the four best runners-up advance to the third stage of qualifying for the finals tournament in Qatar 2022.

Japan leads its group after four straight wins without conceding a goal. South Korea, a 2002 World Cup semi-finalist, is in a tight group tied with North Korea and Lebanon, and trailing leader Turkmenistan by a point.

Australia also has four straight wins to be two points clear of Kuwait and Jordan. Syria has won five straight to lead its group by eight points from China and the Philippines.

The next scheduled phase involves 12 nations in two round-robin groups of 10 games for each team. Those will send four teams to Qatar.

Brady's Bucs debut will be played without fans in stands

AP
In this undated photo, Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady practices with some of his teammates at Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa.

FLORIDA—The fanfare for one of the NFL's most anticipated debuts will be muted.

Tom Brady's first game with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers will be played without fans in the stands. The New Orleans Saints announced on Wednesday that they will not host fans for their Week 1 game against the Bucs on Sept. 13.

"Unfortunately, at this time, the trends across our state and region do not meet the standards of health and safety we have established with our healthcare and government partners to host fans in the stadium for the first home game," a team news release reads.

The release acknowledged an "unlikely" scenario, but did not close the door on hosting fans for Week 3's home game against the Green Bay Packers on Sept. 27 and beyond.

The release included statements from Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards and New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell touting COVID-19 safety as paramount to the desire to attend Saints games.

New Orleans has been one of the nation's hardest-hit areas by the pandemic and continued to see an upward trend in confirmed cases through late July. As of Thursday, Louisiana reported 134,304 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 4,238 deaths in a state with a population of 4.6 million people.

Several teams have announced that fans won't be allowed for the entire season, including the New York Jets and Giants, Las Vegas Raiders and Washington. Other teams like the Green Bay Packers are taking an approach like the Saints, barring fans from early games but holding out hope that fans will be allowed to attend games later in the season.

Most work on a COVID-19 vaccine targets 2021 before one can be safely released.

Cowboys get pass rusher Griffen

The Dallas Cowboys have agreed to a contract with longtime Minnesota defensive end Everson Griffen, a person with knowledge of the deal said Wednesday.

Griffen is the latest addition of a pass rusher with a pedigree for the Cowboys, who signed former San Francisco end Aldon Smith during the offseason.

Griffen is getting a one-year deal worth up to $6 million, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the agreement hasn't been announced.

The deal with Griffen comes two days before the first practice of training camp while the Cowboys await word on a possible reinstatement of suspended defensive end Randy Gregory, whose return is appearing less likely.

In February, Griffen opted out of the final three years of his contract with the Vikings and became a free agent. The 32-year-old spent his first 10 seasons in Minnesota.

Griffen is 15th among active players with 74 1/2 sacks. He didn't become a starter until his fifth season in 2014, then averaged nearly 11 sacks per year over four seasons.

Broncos sign Dotson

The Denver Broncos added a veteran offensive tackle in Demar Dotson to plug an experience gap following Ja'Wuan James ' decision to opt out of the 2020 season because of the coronavirus.

Dotson, who spent his first 11 NFL seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, signed a one-year deal with Denver.

In a corresponding move Wednesday, the Broncos waived defensive lineman Jonathan Harris with a non-football injury designation.

Elijah Wilkinson is expected to get the majority of snaps at right tackle, just like he did last year when James missed 13 game with a balky knee after signing a big free agent contract that included $32 million guaranteed.

James was among more than 60 NFL players who opted out of a season the league is going forward with during the pandemic.

In Dotson, the Broncos get a 34-year-old veteran who has started 106 games in the NFL and played in 130, all with the Buccaneers, who signed him as an undrafted free agent in 2009 out of Southern Miss, where he played basketball.

All but five of Doston's starts have been at right tackle.

Extended daily testing

The NFL extended daily coronavirus testing for players and staff until further notice even though the positive test rate from the first two weeks of camp has been less than 1 percent.

Under the original agreement between the league and the NFL Players Association, players and staff needed three negative tests in a four-day period before they could report to the facility and then daily testing for the next two weeks.

If the positive rate from that first stretch of daily testing was below 5 percent, the plan had been to shift to testing every other day.

But the league and the union decided Wednesday to extend that period as they use more rapid onsite testing and as contact increases when padded practices start around the league next week.

"I think the bottom line is we're continuing to learn a great deal from our testing results," said Dr. Allen Sills, the league's chief medical officer. "I think that given the protocol changes that we recently made, as well as the use of this additional point of care technology and the recognition that we're about to go into more of team-based activity during training camp, that we and the Players Association together felt it was prudent to extend the daily testing."

Sills reported that there were 53 new positives out of 2,840 tests of players upon arrival, which works out to 1.9%. The rate of new positives for all staff upon arrival was at 1.7%

Since then, the league has conducted 109,075 tests through Tuesday with 0.46% of all tests coming up as positive and 0.81% of players testing positive.

"I think we were pleasantly surprised at how few positive tests we had," Sills said of the initial results. "I think since that time, that positivity rate that I gave you reflects the fact that our teams have done, and our players, staff and coaches have done, a terrific job of staying uninfected."

12
From Page 28

the grassroots program from 1:30pm to 4:20pm. Then Day 1 of the course will conclude with another practical sessions at the pitch and this time, coaches will work on passing, control of the ball, and shooting.

For Day 2, the morning session will start with classes on child development and growth, coaching and planning, and women's football. For the pitch session, coaches will work on defending/gaining the ball skills and goal keeping before playing in small-sided games. Written and practical tests will cap the course next weekend.

Coaches are encouraged to attend and complete NMIFA's D License Course to help them equip with the knowledge and skills in working with children under the CNMI's youth league and assist in the continued growth of the Commonwealth's soccer program.

SUNJOON

From Page 28

tives and will use the "offseason" to get ready for the next competition and work with the CNMI National Team.

"I am using the postponement to better prepare myself for the upcoming season. Although it is not ideal, it will give me more time to get my body right and get in better shape," said Tenorio, who came home in May and rejoin the Blue Ayuyus' restricted training sessions at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville the following month. "While I am here, I will continue to train with the national team and keep preparing for the season."

The CNMI Men's National Team is training for the East Asian Football Federation E-1 Men's Football Championship 2021 Preliminary Round 1.

Though he still has to wait for several months before he resumes playing in the collegiate ranks, Tenorio's excitement over his new team and new competition remains high. He is not also discouraged with the temporary setback in his ultimate goal—to play in the pro league.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2018 file photo, the CNMI's Sunjoon Tenorio dribbles away from Guam defenders during their game in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 at the Mongolian Football Federation Stadium in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
In this 2019 file photo, CNMI captain Sunjoon Tenorio, second left, poses with game officials and his counterpart in Brunei before the start of their game in Group G of the Asian Football Confederation U19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

"I am looking forward to playing with my new teammates and in a more competitive division. I am excited to test my abilities against the new competition. I stay motivated by remembering what my end goal is and why I started playing in the first place. With that in mind, my motivation does not fade, but instead grows more," the former MP United Football Club captain said.

7 first-round playoff pairings set

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cubs' 12-3 start best in 50 years

PAGE 25

No fall season, no problem for Sunjoon

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sunjoon Tenorio works with the CNMI Men's National Team during a training session at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville last month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2018 file photo, the CNMI's Sunjoon Tenorio goes for a header against a Macau player during their game in the EAFF E-1 Football Championships 2019 Round 1 at the Mongolian Football Federation Stadium in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sunjoon Tenorio will have to wait until next year to debut with Warner Pacific University and sees no problem stalling his return to the collegiate ranks.

The CNMI striker said the WPU Knights won't be competing this fall season and instead games will be held in spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I ended up staying here on Saipan as my season was postponed to spring. I am also just doing online classes and will join my new team in January," said Tenorio, who was originally set to leave the island for Portland, Oregon late last month, but had change of plans when the suspension of the soccer season was announced.

The many-time CNMI National Team member would have played his sophomore year with the Warner Pacific this month after a very impressive rookie season with Suffolk University in Boston. With the Rams, Tenorio earned Team MVP and Rookie of the Year honors and was the first Suffolk University to have won three straight Rookie of the Week awards in the Great Northeast Athletic Conference. He finished his freshman year with a team-high 10 goals after seeing action in 15 of the Rams' 16 matches.

Tenorio, despite his rookie status with Suffolk University, was a regular starter for the team, making it on the First 11 roster in 12 games.

With his successful debut in the collegiate ranks, Tenorio was looking to pick up where he left off with WPU and the higher-level competition in their group (Cascade Collegiate Conference) in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. However, the pandemic came and the CNMI had to stay put.

Despite the bump in his journey in the collegiate ranks, Tenorio is sticking to the posi-

See SUNJOON on Page 27

12 sign up for soccer coaching course

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will kick off its D License Coaching Course tomorrow with 12 individuals joining the three-day event at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The participants are from four clubs and CNMI national team pools. National players Joshua Abragan, Jireh Yobech, Kohtaro Goto, Reginal Pascual, and Akira Kadokura will take part in the practical and theoretical sessions of the course and will be joined by MP United Football Club's Gene Weaver, Martin Jambor, and Julianne Hall, Kanoa Football Club's Chevy Alipio, Southern United's Nathanette Blas, and TanHoldings Football Club's Winneb Echavez and Katrina Costales.

NMIFA limited the number of participants in the course that will continue this Sunday and will conclude on Aug. 22, as it is strictly enforcing safety guidelines set by both local and federal authorities as well as its own precautionary measures against the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants will be constantly reminded to observe social distancing rules both at the pitch and in the classroom.

Tomorrow's course will begin with a practical session at the NMISTC from 9:30m to 11:20am. Coaches will work on ball feeling, dribbling, and feinting drills. For the theoretical portion of the course, coaches will learn more about the laws of the game, techniques and tactics, and

See 12 on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's Angie Ito, center, facilitates a drill during a coaching seminar last month at the NMI Soccer Training Center. NMIFA will hold a D License Coaching Course starting tomorrow.